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Overseas Edition

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US will be ready for war by deadline

Major to visit Gulf troops in early January

By MICHAEL EVANS AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE prime minister is to visit British forces in the Gulf to boost morale ahead of the January 15 war deadline. John Major's trip was announced yesterday as America confirmed that all its ground forces would be ready for combat.

Mr Major is expected to go to the Middle East in the first week in January, although no firm date has been fixed. He is also trying to arrange a visit to see President Bush in Washington before Christmas.

The prime minister's plans were announced after he spent half an hour with General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, at Downing Street yesterday. British officials emphasised that the meeting was not "a council of war", and Mr Major later told Conservative MPs and peers that Britain fully supported Mr Bush's willingness to "travel the extra mile" to achieve a peaceful solution to the confrontation, saying "so are we".

Mr Major was, however, said to have expressed his satisfaction at the meeting with General Powell with the

way British and American commanders were co-operating in Saudi Arabia as they prepared for a possible offensive. Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, confirmed in Warsaw yesterday that the 150,000 American reinforcements would be operational by mid-January. British reinforcements — a second brigade of 14,000 men deploying now — will also be ready then. But Mr Cheney declined to discuss when an attack might be launched. "A decision about how long to wait has not been made," he said at the start of his two-day visit to the Polish capital. "I don't want to get into the business of talking about the calendar."

Mr Cheney's officials said that the United States would have 400,000 military personnel in the Gulf region by January 15. An extra 300 fighter aircraft would also be in position. However, it was not clear when extra naval forces, including a further three carrier battle groups, would be in the region. The carriers USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS America are due to leave for the Gulf soon after Christmas. No date has been fixed for the departure of the USS Ranger.

Australia yesterday announced that it was stepping up its Gulf role, putting the destroyer Brisbane, the frigate Sydney and the supply vessel Success under American operational control. Bob Hawke, the prime minister, said the three warships "would be available to participate in action with the allied fleet".

The move came as Britain warned its European partners that resentment was growing in the United States over what Americans see as Europe's refusal to carry an equal burden in the Gulf. Douglas Hurd told a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels: "There is a feeling in the US as they look at the future of the Gulf crisis and the distribution of effort between the US and the allies that there is a lack of balance there. It is therefore all the more important that Europe should be seen to be more effective in providing for its own defence."

Mr Hurd said the resentment could not be assuaged by Europe paying more for Gulf operations: what mattered in American eyes was how many troops there were on the ground. Mr Cheney indicated yesterday, however, that Washington might still ask its allies for more money. Before leaving for Warsaw, he told

King's pledge, page 7
French compromise, page 10
Leading article, page 13

Brass band: Tom King and General Colin Powell leaving Downing Street yesterday

Aga Khan boycotts British racing

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Aga Khan, one of the most successful owner-breeders of racehorses in the world, announced yesterday that he will cease to have horses trained or raced in Britain until the Jockey Club changes its drug testing procedures.

His decision was announced less than two weeks after his horse, Aliya, the winner of the 1989 Oaks, was disqualified from first place in the Epsom classic. Aliya was disqualified after the Jockey Club decided that the source of a chemical by-product, 3-hydroxycamphor, found in a post-race urine sample was camphor, a prohibited substance. An international team of experts hired by the Aga had proved that it could have come from foodstuffs or stable bedding.

Ninety horses presently in training with Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani in Newmarket will be moved to other trainers employed by the Aga in France, Ireland and the United States.

The enquiry will set out to determine the Department of Trade's involvement and knowledge of the production of the steel tubes. Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, is also expected to be questioned over his allegations that officials were warned two years ago about the possible nature of the order placed with the Halesowen firm Walter Somers.

A racing dynasty, page 41
The Aga's decision, page 42

Soviet Union to get EC food aid

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is preparing to send large quantities of surplus food to the Soviet Union, but is demanding that it must be properly distributed and must reach those who are hungry. German food is already going into the Soviet Union under armoured guard, German sources said.

In response to pleas from Moscow to the Community for urgent humanitarian aid, EC foreign ministers agreed yesterday that food convoys must soon start rolling. A formal go-ahead is expected to be given at the Rome summit.

Britain, which has taken a sceptical view of reports of impending famine, now accepts that some short-term aid is essential.

"We believe that where people are hungry and deprived of food, then food should be supplied," Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

In response to a demand firmly expressed by France, The Netherlands and es-

pecially Britain, community finance ministers will on Monday, have an emergency meeting here to discuss costs.

Between now and its sum-

mit meeting, the community

will work flat-out to co-ordinate what should be sent to the Soviet Union and how.

On Monday evening M Delors held long discussions with Michel Camdessus, the chair-

man of the International Monetary Fund, whose own report on the Soviet economy

will be published soon after the EC summit.

He also held talks with Yuli Kvitsinsky, a deputy Soviet foreign minister.

● The Government believes the community should help Moscow by solving its technical and organisational problems rather than by sending food aid (Andrew McEwan writes). Sources yesterday accepted that there were worsening shortages in the Soviet Union, but argued that these were localised, quoting Soviet officials saying that most regions had near-normal supplies.

● After a letter in Monday's Times from Leonid Zamyatin, Moscow's ambassador in London, appealing for financial rather than food aid to the Soviet Union, the British pub-

licans have been quick to donate several thousand pounds (William Cash writes).

A spokesman at Barclays Bank's Marble Arch branch which has opened the Aid to the Soviet People account (No. 00107301) said yesterday that cheques had started to flow in and that he expected a large response from the public.

Black market war, page 9

Commons to launch 'supergun' enquiry

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

A PARLIAMENTARY en-

quiry will be launched later this month into the government's handling of the export licence for steel tubes destined for the Iraqi supergun.

The enquiry will set out to determine the Department of Trade's involvement and knowledge of the production of the steel tubes. Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, is also expected to be questioned over his allegations that officials were warned two years ago about the possible nature of the order placed with the Halesowen firm Walter Somers.

A racing dynasty, page 41
The Aga's decision, page 42

Cold War echo to legion's new desert songs

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN HAIFER EL-BATIN

SHADES OF P.C. Wren's novel *Beauty* linger in the eastern desert of Saudi Arabia as hard-faced French foreign legionnaires from more than 60 nations sit tightly under the stars in Bedouin tents singing loud and strangely moving laments of lost loves past campaigns and death.

The composition, if not the ethos of the legion, one of the toughest units in the multinational force now facing Iraq, has changed. Today's recruits come from the liberated nations of Eastern Europe and within a year they will have replaced English-speakers as the largest minority in the 8,000-strong legion.

soldier of France, entirely amenable to martial law, without any appeal whatsoever. Your friends cannot buy you out, and your consul cannot help you. For five years, nothing but death can remove you from the legion."

The rawest recruit in the detachment, based about 60 miles from the nearest Iraqi troops, is an 18-year-old Romanian who lost his father in last December's revolution and whose mother died a few months later.

Others may well have been members of the feared Securitate secret police looking for a haven from retribution.

Colonel Yves Derville, commander of the Second Foreign Infantry Regiment based in Nîmes, said: "The legion has a tradition of not asking

Ceausescu or pro-Ceausescu, and we do not care."

Once accepted, a recruit is given a new identity which he may later abandon. He foregoes the right to marry for ten years and takes a crash course in French. In the Saudi desert he wears a green beret; the traditional white kepi is reserved for ceremonial occasions and the monthly pay day.

During 24 hours spent in the field with the legion, I met at least eight Britons whose main common bond, apart from language, was an impatience to see combat. Among them was Corporal Gavin Allen, a 15-year veteran who joined in 1975 after leaving Wormwood Scrubs prison. "Why I was there was my business,

that it was false.

"Justice problems" affect some 30 per cent of legionnaires. The others who join are mainly professional soldiers looking for more glamorous action, adventurers and those escaping family problems or trying to forget a broken love affair.

Any suggestion that they might be mercenaries are made at the reporter's peril. All legionnaires have the right to French citizenship after five years of service and fight under the tricolour which flies prominently over their desert camp. They combine a tough, killer image (much in evidence during their close-combat sessions in the sand) with a provision of home comforts which has helped to keep

Abolition of poll tax not ruled out, Heseltine told

By DOUGLAS BROOM AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major has told Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, that he does not rule out the complete abolition of the poll tax.

The two men met for half an hour last night to discuss tactics in today's critical debate on a policy that Mr Heseltine bitterly opposed during his time in the political wilderness. The prime minister told Mr Heseltine that "no options were barred", according to senior government sources.

David Blunkett, the shadow local government minister, said that the new environment team headed by Mr Heseltine included staunch defenders of the community charge as well as outspoken opponents. "The whole place is riddled with differences of opinion about what to do with the poll tax," he said. "On the one hand, Mr Heseltine says he wants change, but his local government minister, Michael Portillo, is on record as saying it is the fairest means of local taxation."

Tories get new call to unity

By ROBIN OAKLEY

POLITICAL EDITOR

IN HIS first address to the party faithful Mr Major set out a personal political credo offering his party flexible, commonsense Conservatism which was willing to adjust policies which did not work.

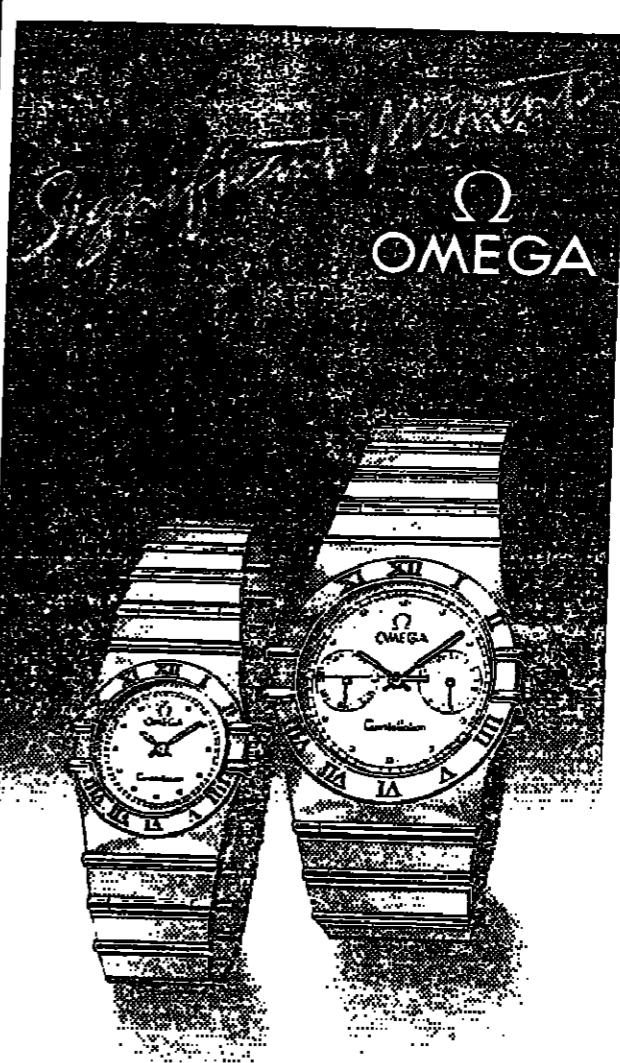
He stressed, too, the importance of compassion and used notably more moderate language about Europe than Margaret Thatcher, to whom he paid lavish tribute. Mr Major warned Conservatives that without unity they would never achieve the success they had achieved under Mrs Thatcher.

He gave a clear signal to constituency associations to call off any action planned against MP's who supported Michael Heseltine in the leadership contest, the new prime minister urged his party to reject back-biting, recriminations and post-mortems, saying: "There is too much at stake. We have an election to win."

He also threw his weight behind John Taylor, the black prospective candidate whose selection for Cheltenham has

Continued on page 24, col 6

Race dispute, page 2
Norman Tebbit, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Photograph, page 24



... OMEGA CONSTELLATION.
THE WATCH SOLD AT LEADING JEWELLERS
AROUND THE WORLD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

INDEX

Arts	20-22
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Business	25-31
Court & social	14
Comics	15, 24
Law report	37
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Media	16, 17
Obituaries	14
Property	35-36
Sport	38-42
TV & radio	23

Gilded youth of Oxbridge loosens the bond with Toryism

By ALAN HAMILTON

RONALD Reagan received two conflicting invitations to address the *jeunesse dorée* of Britain today, one from the Oxford union and the other from the Cambridge union. Cambridge won, probably because it is celebrating its 175th anniversary, or possibly because George Shultz spoke there recently and returned with encouraging reports of the undergraduates' attention span.

In this supposed new era of classless politics, however, led by a prime minister whose university was the streets of Brixton, will Mr Reagan's audience be the gilded youth of today that matures into the government of tomorrow? Have not the Oxbridge unions, traditional forcing-houses of high Toryism, had their day?

John Major's cabinet contains five former presidents of the Cambridge union (Messrs Hurd, Howard, Lamont, Clarke and Gunner) and four who held equivalent offices at Oxford (Messrs Heseltine, Newton, Brooke and Waldegrave). They



From Oxbridge to high office: politicians who honed their skills as presidents of their respective unions include, from left, Messrs Lamont, Gunner, Waldegrave, Newton, Heseltine, Brooke, Clarke and Howard. While the posts have launched some glittering cabinet careers, they are all men of an earlier student generation, though. Today, neither union is dominated by the output of English public schools. Both have fallen to a concerted invasion from Scotland.

Oliver Campbell (Edinburgh Academy) is the present president of the Oxford union, reading law with ambitions towards advocacy. He has, he says, no burning political career plans.

Martin Harris (George Watson's, Edinburgh and Glenalmond) presides over the Cambridge union when he is not reading history with hopes of

as his incoming vice-president and secretary.

Both unions have in the past been closely – too closely, many feel – associated with their respective university Conservative associations; both presidents deny that this is any longer the case. At Oxford, Mr Campbell claims that, after a concerted effort to improve the facilities and the finances, the union has three-quarters of the undergraduate population in membership, and their range of backgrounds and political views reflects the ever-widening intake of the university.

At Cambridge, Mr Harris claims about half the student body as members. He agrees that in the recent past the union was more or less in bed with the Conservative association, but no longer. Last year, for the first time, Cambridge admitted more undergraduates from state schools than from private education.

Mr Harris waved a hand around his premises, which looked like any other student union, with a bar and seating more functional than opulent. "Thirty years ago this place would have been an elitist gentlemen's club, with vast leather armchairs and bellpushes to summon a waiter. Look at it now."

For all their demotic tendencies, neither union is at present well represented on the Labour front bench – another area subject to severe Celtic infiltration. Michael Foot and Tony Benn are both Oxford ex-presidents, while Greville Janner and Jack Ashley held the equivalent light blue honour. However, it is the unions of Edinburgh and Glasgow whose debating skills hold sway in the shadow cabinet now. And yet, Cambridge and

Oxford still have sufficient cachet to attract the best speakers. The former has recently heard Norman Tebbit, Bryan Gould, Paddy Ashdown, Henry Kissinger, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter and the Princess Royal. Cambridge has done marginally less well recently, with George Shultz, Helen Suzman, Michael Howard, the Archbishop of York and Ludovic Kennedy. They rely on Reagan to level the score.

Both, too, increasingly attract sponsorship, largely from newspapers (including this one) and prospective employers of the talent on display, such as leading law firms. Mr Reagan appears today by courtesy of the *International Herald Tribune*. Oxford's greatest financial coup was to pull in a donation of £1 million from Mitsubishi Trust and Banking.

Past presidents, it is said, take ten years to bloom in public life. Perhaps some cabinet minister early next century will recall hearing Ronald Reagan speak today.

Tory leaders move swiftly to back black candidate

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major and other senior Conservatives acted last night to quell a damaging race dispute by disowning protests by party activists over the choice of a black Tory parliamentary candidate.

The prime minister and Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, swung the full weight of the party machine behind John Taylor, who has been selected as the prospective candidate for Cheltenham in the face of some local opposition.

Mr Major said: "As long as I am privileged to lead our party I will never become an exclusive club." Racist remarks aimed at the man who is tipped to be the first black Tory MP were "not sentiments that have any place in our party".

After Mr Major's pledge to create a classics society there is anger and embarrassment among Conservative MPs and at Conservative Central Office at the outburst from a local party member, Bill Galbraith, who was reported as calling Mr Taylor, a former adviser to the Home Office, a "bloody nigger".

Mr Patten suggested the remarks were repellent, and Mr Major used a speech to Tories in London to state that everyone should be able to go as far as their talent, ambition and effort took them; there should be no artificial barriers on grounds of background, religion or race. Then he went to the Commons to denounce the reported objections as "not sentiments that have any place in our party".

Mr Galbraith, who tried to block Mr Taylor's adoption, was reported as saying the people of Cheltenham wanted a local man and not "a nigger from Birmingham". Although Mr Galbraith, a cousin of the Earl of Strathclyde, said yesterday the remarks were made in private and that he had been misquoted, he admitted: "I did say we would not let bloody niggers into this town."

Last night Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, urged Mr Major to expel Mr Galbraith.

Mr Patten wrote congratulating Mr Taylor on his selection as candidate and wishing him every success. "I know how much work you have done for the party over many years and I well understand why your qualities commanded themselves to the Cheltenham association," he said.

Mr Patten told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that Mr Taylor was selected on merit. "I do not think that anybody has any time at all for the rather repellent views of a minority in our society." Asked if there were constituencies where racist views were widely represented, Mr Patten replied: "There are people embracing every political creed who have views on race that make Al Garnett seem like a screaming liberal."

Mr Taylor again brushed aside

the candidacy row. "I am not worried about that. I have a job to do, it is a very enjoyable job and that is getting to know the people of Cheltenham." Mr Taylor said there was "definitely no question" about the support of the Cheltenham Tory association, which had selected him from 250 hopefuls in a hard-fought competition. He later added: "You will always get people in society whose vision does not extend beyond the end of their noses. Frankly I feel sorry for people like that."

Sir Charles Irving, the retiring MP for Cheltenham, challenged Mr Galbraith to write a "total and unequivocal apology for his disgusting remarks".

William Galbraith, who called himself a "bloody nigger", said yesterday that he would "shake Mr Taylor by the hand" and back him to the hilt if he won the Cheltenham seat.

Given that Mr Taylor is said by all who have met him to be "a very nice man", it is likely that he will be willing to bury the hatchet. The furor raised by Mr Galbraith's words, however, is unlikely to subside quickly. The dispute, according to one Cheltenham councillor, has reinforced public perception of the town as "Colonel Blimpsville" and a "white elephant's graveyard".

Sir Charles Irving, the present Cheltenham MP, demanded a public apology and Mr Galbraith's resignation from the party. Mr Galbraith's response to these demands was "bloody rubbish". He said, however: "If Mr Taylor is elected I will give him my wholehearted support."

He did not believe that would happen, he added, because the electorate favoured a local man.

He also refused to resign, saying it was up to the Conservative party to expel him, if it wished. "My family have been Tory grandees for 50 years," he said. "This whole thing is a storm in a teacup. On Saturday I made a private speech to party members. It should have remained private."

He confirmed that he had described Mr Taylor using the fateful words and added that he would not retract them. "The horrible truth is that, if I had to do the whole thing over, I would say the same again." He said, however, that he would shake Mr Taylor's hand if he was elected as MP.

Politicians in Cheltenham said that Mr Galbraith's views were those of a tiny minority. "There's a Galbraith in every town in England," Bill Bullingham, the mayor, said. "We've had teenagers to do with it, but people would prefer a local man. That's the objection I have."

An elderly couple from The Park, on the outskirts of Cheltenham, who were reluctant to be identified said they thought Taylor faced a tough job. "It doesn't matter that he is not local. How many MPs out of the 600-odd actually live in their constituency? His problem is that Cheltenham is very white."

Cheltenham is genteel and relatively prosperous. Unemployment stands at 3.1 per cent, 84 per cent of the housing is owner-occupied and, of the 85,000-strong population, 21 per cent is retired, according to the national census of 1981. More than the national average of people are in the upper social classes.

The general view of local people was that Mr Taylor would have a better chance in Gloucester, where there is a larger black population. The total number of Caribbean people in the Cheltenham area was less than 200 in 1981.

Most members of the public said that Mr Taylor's colour was not important. Roger Eales, aged 76, a former London Transport traffic manager, said: "I like the look of Mr Taylor, but he could cost the Tories the seat anyway. His colour doesn't have anything to do with it, but people would

prefer a local man. That's the objection I have."

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Blakelock killing conviction referred back to appeal court

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal is to be asked to consider new evidence on the mental condition of Engin Raghip, one of the three men convicted of the murder in 1985 of PC Keith Blakelock.

The decision, announced by Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, was met with jubilation by Raghip's family and a call from Lord Scarman, the former law lord, for all three convictions to be reviewed.

The move is the first victory for a long campaign to free the three men in a case that has been surrounded by controversy. Earlier this year the detective chief superintendent in overall charge of the murder investigation was found guilty by a Scotland Yard tribunal of a disciplinary offence over the treatment of a juvenile charged with, but

cleared of, the murder. A junior officer is due to go before another tribunal shortly.

Yesterday's announcement follows Home Office scrutiny of the case against the three men after a BBC television investigation earlier this year and representations from MPs and lawyers. Mr Baker, in a Commons written answer yesterday, said there was no grounds to refer back the cases of Winston Silcock or Mark Braithwaite who were convicted with Raghip at the Central Criminal Court in 1987.

PC Blakelock was stabbed and hacked to death by a mob during a riot on the Broadwater estate, north London, in October 1985. According to the Crown, Raghip, from north London, was on the

scene at the time of the murder, was carrying a broom-handle and would have struck PC Blakelock if he could have got close.

He was held by police for five days and began to incriminate himself during ten interviews. He had signed away the right to have a solicitor present and was deemed to have committed the murder because he placed himself at the scene with the intention of attacking the constable.

In May this year, BBC television's *Inside Story* series looked at the convictions for the murder and raised questions over the work of Dr Eric Ward, a defence psychologist.

Before the trial Dr Ward found that Raghip was of average intelligence.

After the conviction, Dr Giesla Gudjonsson, of the Institute of Psychiatry, looked at Raghip and found that he was in the bottom 5 per cent of the population in terms of intelligence.

Raghip was described as having a low intelligence, being close to mentally handicapped and unable to read or write. He was said to be highly suggestible.

When Raghip originally appealed the judges dismissed the new evidence because of Dr Ward's work. This year in the programme Dr Ward said that his report was mistaken and that data had been misinterpreted.

Mrs Lewington said that, after having three children, she had a sterilisation operation in April 1984. In November 1985, she found she was pregnant, but turned down an offer of a termination because she was opposed to abortion.

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After Charlotte's birth, she was horrified to find herself pregnant again, in spite of taking the contraceptive pill. She miscarried and underwent a second sterilisation operation.

Mrs Lewington claimed for the cost of bringing up Charlotte, now four, and also sought damages for pain and suffering and the cost of extending the family home.

The authority had accepted it must

£46,000 damages for unplanned baby

By DAVID YOUNG

A HEALTH authority is to pay £46,000 damages to a mother who was driven to thoughts of suicide by the birth of an unplanned fourth baby after a sterilisation operation.

Linda Lewington reached a settlement in the High Court yesterday on the second day of her damages action over the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, in July 1986, in spite of having an operation two years earlier at Rush Green hospital in Romford, east London.

Mrs Lewington, aged 38, said that she considered taking a drug overdose because of the emotional and financial strain, but that her third child, Suzanne, had followed her around, saying "Don't leave me, Mummy, we will make you better", which made her decide against it.

Peter Latham, her counsel, told Mr Justice Rose that Mrs Lewington had reached agreement with the Barking, Havering and Brentwood health authority, which is responsible for the hospital. The authority had accepted it must

New curbs on TV bidders

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, yesterday introduced additional cross-media ownership restrictions to the Broadcasting Act, preventing bidders for ITV franchises from owning more than one large regional licence.

The Home Office has ruled that the nine largest Channel 3 licensees, in terms of national advertising revenue, can own outright any of the six smaller regional franchises. The large companies will be restricted to 20 per cent of one other "large" licence. It also scrapped contiguity rules, which would prevent a Channel 3 licensee owning another bordering regional licence.

The secondary legislation, applying to terrestrial television and radio, was introduced yesterday in spite of pressure from the independent Television Commission to delay it. It wanted the Home Office to consider more carefully whether News International should have to reduce its 50 per cent holding in British Sky Broadcasting to 20 per cent in line with non-EC and cross-media ownership rules for terrestrial and domestic satellite TV.



Daniel Day-Lewis as Christy Moore

Media, pages 16-17

Fast car sales hit red light

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Eighties boom in the fast car market has skidded to a halt in the recession, with investors facing the prospect of handing over the keys of their Porsches and Ferraris to debt collectors.

Cars this year could be worth as little as a quarter of their 1989 values as some owners, desperate to find cash to pay off loans and keep banks at bay, force a glut of exotic models into auction rooms.

The boom reached its climax last year with record prices set for classic sports models as investors hoped to make a profit every bit as fast as the car.

However, 15 cars worth £5 million languishing in a storage garage last night were symptomatic of the U-turn in the market. The cars were repossessed from victims of high interest rates and the

classic car market and put into storage by the new owners — merchant banks and finance companies.

Alan Cowen, managing director of Storacar, in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, said the number of cars being repossessed was in full flood. He is storing the cars while decisions are made on whether to sell now and risk losses or hold on until the market revives.

Mr Cowen added: "Exotic vehicles, including one example worth the best part of £1 million, which have been used as collateral to finance business deals and personal investment have been repossessed in considerable numbers." After repossessing the cars, the banks faced the difficulty of "peering into a foggy crystal ball" to try to determine the future course of the market.

Robert Dawkins, car specialist at Phillips auctioneers, said a Ferrari often the most valuable

Safety on roads a matter of social conscience

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A CHRISTMAS campaign against drinking and driving designed to exploit the social conscience of potential offenders was launched by Christopher Chope, the roads minister, yesterday.

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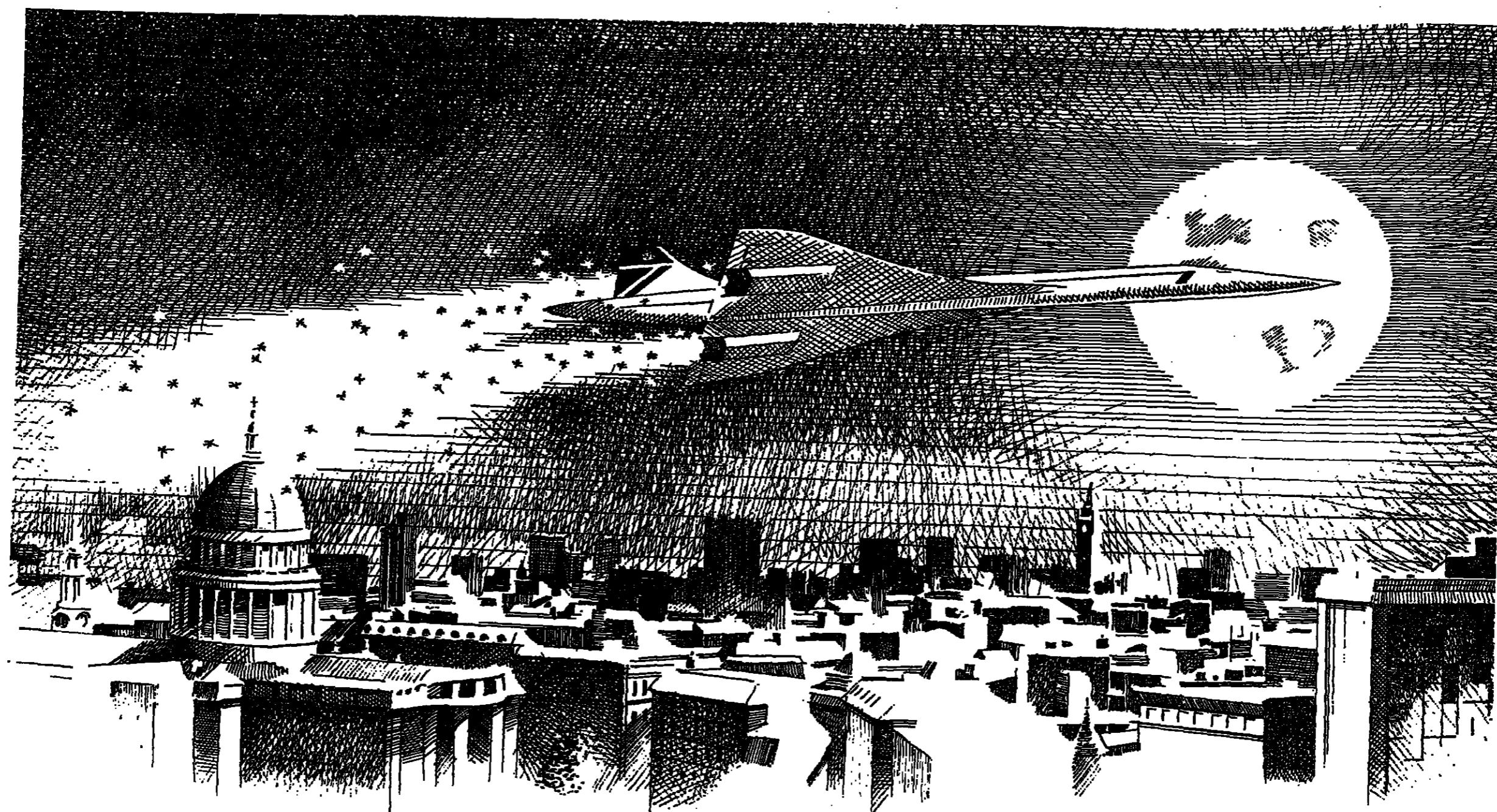
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محل من الأصل

TRADITIONAL family groupings and social mores continue to alter greatly in Britain, according to the latest General Household Survey, the authoritative picture of life in Britain published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Only about a quarter of households consisted of the standard nuclear unit: a couple and their dependent children. One in six families with dependent children was headed by a lone parent, almost always a woman, compared with one in 12 in 1971. One in five unmarried women aged 18-49 was cohabiting, compared with one in ten in 1979. The proportion

of married women at work was 66 per cent, up from 54 per cent in 1973.

The average age at which women married for the first time was up from 21 in 1968 to 23. In general, married and cohabiting women were younger than their partners. Those who had been married before, however, were more likely to choose a younger man. Thirty-three per cent of women in that group had a partner

younger than themselves, compared with 14 per cent of women marrying for the first time.

The average age at which women gave birth to a first child was 24. Women with higher educational qualifications and those from non-manual socio-economic groups tended to be older than other mothers at the

birth of their first child. The length of time between first and second births was 37 months. The interval increased to 43 months between second and third children.

The survey, compiled from data gathered in 1988 after interviews at about 10,000 households, revealed that men and women were smoking less but drinking more.

in 1972. The survey found that men and women who smoked heavily were more likely to drink too much as well.

The number of people suffering from long-term illness was shown to have increased from 21 per cent in 1972 to 33 per cent in 1988. For both sexes there was a strong association between levels of chronic sickness and socio-economic status. Such complaints were lowest among the pro-

fessional group and highest among manual workers.

Twenty-one per cent of adults in Britain owned shares in 1988, the same proportion recorded in the previous year's survey. Shareholders were most frequently middle-aged and middle class. However, those who held shares only in privatised companies tended to have lower incomes than investors as a whole.

REPORTS BY BILL FROST AND NICHOLAS WATT

General Household Survey 1988. (Stationery Office: £16.50)

The nuclear unit goes into decline

THE number of single parent families has increased as the traditional unit goes into decline, the general household survey shows.

Only one-quarter of households consist of married couples and their children. The number of mothers bringing up a family alone has risen to 15 per cent, after remaining steady at 12 per cent since 1983. The proportion of lone fathers remained unchanged at 1 per cent of families with children.

The number of couples living together outside marriage has continued its steady growth, and has doubled in a decade. Unmarried couples who live together are most prevalent in the South-East and East Anglia (21 per cent in both areas). In Wales and Scotland, only 7 per cent and 12 per cent of couples respectively cohabit outside marriage.

The proportion of couples who live together before marriage increased from 4 per cent in the late 1960s to 37 per cent, and was more common among couples in which one or both partners had been married before.

The highest number of illegitimate births, 12 per cent of those registered, was in Greater London while the lowest figure, 9 per cent, was in Scotland.

The proportion of children born to unmarried parents has been

THE FAMILY

rising significantly for more than 20 years, with a particularly steep increase between 1985 and 1987, from 15 per cent to 23 per cent.

The average age of a mother at childbirth was 27. Women with a higher level of education tended to be older at the birth of their first child than those without qualifications.

One in seven women and one in nine men aged between 16 and 59 had been divorced, the survey showed. Men aged 40-49 and women aged 30-39 were the most likely to have been divorced.

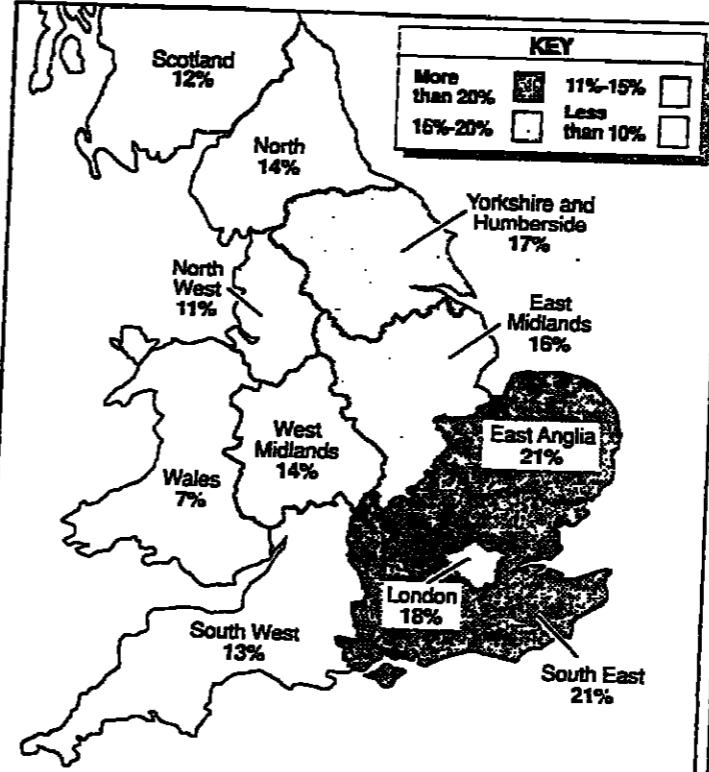
The proportion of marriages that end in separation or divorce within a given period has increased. Among women first married between 1960 and 1964, only 4 per cent had divorced within six years, compared with 12 per cent of those who married between 1975 and 1979.

A total of 66 per cent of married women now go out to work, compared to 54 per cent in 1973. There is a similar increase in the number of working married mothers with dependent children.

Provisional figures for 1989 show the trend has continued. The proportion of lone mothers who work has declined. One-parent families are more



The family unit of married couple and children is declining; the map shows the percentage of unmarried couples living together in 1987-8



likely to live in council housing than nuclear families. Throughout the Eighties, however, there was an overall fall in the proportion of households renting from local authorities.

Almost all (98 per cent) households have exclusive use of their own bath or shower, and sole rights on an inside lavatory.

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Almost twice as many women than men visited their doctors, a pattern that was particularly pronounced in the 16-44 age group, where 17 per cent of women and 8 per cent of men did so. The authors of the survey attributed it to women consulting doctors about pregnancy and family planning. The GHS measured people's perception of their health, said by the authors to be important as it related to the demand for the health service better than clinical records.

Boys under the age of 15

Fitness linked to class

HEALTH

age of 15 reported long-standing illnesses. 15 per cent of unskilled manual workers' daughters did so. A total of 14 per cent of professionals' sons in that age group, however, reported long-standing illness, compared to 21 per cent of sons of unskilled manual workers.

There was, however, almost no association between chronic illness and the socio-economic status of children, particularly among girls. While 16 per cent of professionals' daughters under the

THE Thatcherite pledge to create a nation of shareholders has had some success, with more than one in five people owning shares, according to the general household survey.

Only 7 per cent of the population owned shares in 1984, the year of the British Telecom privatisation and, while the numbers have since risen by 14 percentage points, Britain's average shareholder remains a mid-

10.3 per cent of those interviewed.

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Water chiefs 'tried to cover up poison alert at Camelford'

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE South West Water Authority supplied its customers with poisoned drinking water and then tried to hide the truth. Exeter crown court was told yesterday.

The authority, which has now been succeeded by South West Water plc, denies endangering public health and polluting the river Camel in July 1988 after 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate were mistakenly emptied into the wrong tank at the Lowermoor treatment works supplying water to the town of Camelford and surrounding villages.

People who drank the water suffered sore mouths and lips, diarrhoea and other symptoms. Some still complain of memory loss and suspect long-term brain damage.

Francis Gilbert, for the prosecution, said: "From top to bottom the story is one of bungling and incompetence, a failure by staff to follow their own procedures... There was a failure to discover what was actually in the water and after the poisoning there was a failure to warn the public not

to drink the water until it was known what was in it. The public was told the water was safe to drink when it was not."

The aluminium sulphate, from the authority's regular supplier, was delivered to the Lowermoor water treatment works near Camelford by a relief driver who accidentally discharged the chemical into a tank of water ready to go into the public supply instead of a chemical storage tank.

Mr Gilbert said: "Within minutes the alarm at to the headquarters in Exeter showed something was wrong. The operator contacted the man on duty. He was having tea and finished it before he went to the works. Complaints started to come in of foul-tasting, foul-smelling water, black water. People had burns in their mouths, and hair and fingers stuck together. The water was curdling tea. These were dramatic complaints which should have put the authority on notice something was wrong."

No samples of the water were taken that night. The next day the cause of complaints was attributed to a fault in a lime pump. Senior officials, without taking samples, decided to flush the system, discharging a million gallons of water into the river Camel, where fish were killed over a 14-kilometre stretch.

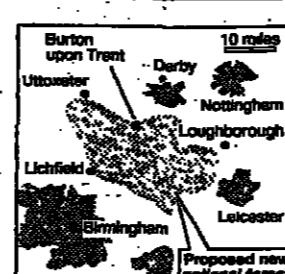
The authority told the public the water was drinkable hoping it would get better, Mr Gilbert said. The "peanut dropped" when staff noticed the aluminium sulphate tank was low, and the supplier confirmed it had made a delivery.

Mr Gilbert said: "The decision was taken not to tell the public what had happened and not to give them elementary advice to flush out their own tanks... Aluminium sulphate will react with copper pipes and part of the trouble was caused by copper poisoning."

The authority finally told the truth 17 days after the incident when it advertised in a local newspaper admitting the mis-delivery of aluminium sulphate but likened it to lemon juice. Mr Gilbert said: "The trial continues today."



Forest is born: Matthew Sharpe, aged eight, of Leicestershire, planting a tree yesterday on the site for the new national forest in the Midlands. Earlier, the forest's first tree had been planted at Ashby, Leicestershire, by Sir George Young, junior environment minister. When it is complete, the forest will cover 150 square miles of Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Pam Gilder, of the Countryside Commission and project leader for the new forest,



said: "In the middle of the next century we should start to see what looks like a forest developing. We are planting 200, maybe 300 trees, but the

forest will be made up of 30 million trees, so what we are planting today is a very tiny percentage." Sir George, who joined civic leaders, landowners, businessmen and conservationists in planting the first trees, described the occasion as an historic landmark. The minister was accompanied by 100 schoolchildren from surrounding districts. Sir Derek Barber chairman of the Countryside Commission and Raymond Johnstone, chairman of the Forestry Commission.

Tears from man in sex attack case

RUSSELL Bishop, accused of sexually assaulting and attempting to murder a girl aged seven, broke down in tears yesterday as he told of a campaign against him after his acquittal of the murders of two nine-year-old girls.

Mr Bishop, who was found not guilty of the murders three years ago, denied killing the girls but was asked why it was that "police officers, scientists and members of the public think you were guilty". In tears, he pointed to a poster displayed in Brighton which accuses him of being a child killer and asked: "With feelings like that, what do you expect?"

He said in evidence to Lewes crown court that he had been harassed by police, that the brake pipes of his car had twice been cut and his home firebombed before his acquittal of the murders.

Mr Bishop, aged 24, of Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex, is alleged by the prosecution to have abducted the seven-year-old girl last February and driven her in the boot of his car to Devil's Dyke where, it is said, he sexually assaulted her before leaving her naked and for dead.

He denies charges of kidnap, attempted murder, attempting to choke the girl and indecent assault. The jury has been told he has an alibi defence.

He told the jury that posters showing his photograph and reading "Russell Bishop, Warning Notice. This man is a child killer" had been displayed all over Sussex before his home had been firebombed in February 1989. On two occasions the brake pipes on his car had been cut.

Mr Bishop, who had left the dock on the 14th day of his trial to give evidence from the witness box, admitted that he had previous convictions for burglary and motor offences. He admitted that the red Cortina the prosecution alleges he used for the abduction had been stolen, but said it had not been stolen by him.

He was asked by Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, for the defence: "Did you abduct the girl, strangle her half to death, strip her naked and sexually assault her?" He replied: "No sir, I did not."

Mr Bishop said he had not been to Devil's Dyke on the afternoon the girl was kidnapped.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Couple lived with 51 dogs

A couple who lived with their 51 starving and ill dogs in one filthy room of their council home were yesterday placed on probation for 12 months. Magistrates at Camberwell, south London, disqualified Maurice Swinburn, aged 56, and his wife Daphne, aged 57, of Peckham, south London, from owning any animal for life and ordered each of them to pay £800 costs.

The couple admitted at a previous hearing causing unnecessary suffering to the animals. The 51 crossbred terriers were destroyed.

Gunman jailed

Antony Kerr, a suspected member of the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, was jailed in Belgium yesterday for four-and-a-half years for shooting and wounding a policeman. His alleged accomplice, Peter McNally, was sentenced in his absence to two years.

Father accused

A father was charged yesterday with the murder of his wife and two young children at their home in Ringwood, Hampshire, on Monday afternoon. Totton magistrates remanded Michael Hall, aged 50, in custody.

Man committed

Robert Miller, a financier of central London, was committed for trial at Southwark crown court yesterday charged with 30 offences under the theft act in connection with the collapse of Dunsdale Securities.

Peace plea

Families of terrorist victims, politicians and churchmen yesterday called for an end to the violence in Northern Ireland in letters to the Sinn Fein headquarters in Dublin and the Ulster Defence Association headquarters in Belfast.

Home comforts

A £13 million barracks was opened yesterday at Catterick garrison, North Yorkshire, offering servicemen greater privacy and comfort.

Bond winner

The £250,000 National Savings premium bond prize for December has been won by the holder of bond number 19XN 909728, from County Durham.

England just miss chess silver medal

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a disappointing final-round draw against Cuba, England saw the silver medals (which they had won in 1984, 1986 and 1988) slip through their grasp. The 29th Chess Olympics at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, ended with the customary victory by the Soviet Union, with 39 points out of a possible total of 56.

England shared second position with the United States on 35½ but the US had faced stronger teams, which gave them the silver medal on tie break. England had been leading the US by one point before the final round, but they succeeded in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory when John Nunn lost his game, while the US crushed Bulgaria by three points to one.

Other leading scores in the 107-nation competition were: Czechoslovakia, 34½; Yugoslavia, China and Cuba all 33; West Germany, Iceland, India, Sweden, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia all 32½; Scotland, 31½; Wales 30; Ireland 28; Channel Islands 24.

There was some consolation for England's disappointment at failing to seize the team's silver medals. Grandmaster Murray Chandler, from London, made the superb individual score of nine points from 11 and thus took the individual silver medal on board five. He also took the individual silver medal for the second

best individual performance of the entire Olympics. The gold medal for the best personal performance was won by Grandmaster Robert Hubner, of West Germany, while the bronze medal for individual performance went to Vassily Ivanchuk, of the first board of the Soviet team.

In the women's competition Hungary, with a team dominated by the three Polgar sisters of Budapest, won the gold medals on tie break ahead of the Soviet Union. Scores were: Hungary 35 out of 42; Soviet Union 35; China 29; Bulgaria 26; Yugoslavia and Romania 24; Scotland 22; Ireland 20½; Wales 20.

In the men's competition there was an outstanding performance by Iolo Jones's board six of the Welsh team. He won the individual gold medal for his board with six points from seven possible.

The English performance overall was slightly disappointing and questions will be asked whether the right team was fielded at crucial moments. For example, in the final-round match against Cuba was it right to field John Nunn when he had only just lost a game in the previous round against Iceland? An extra half point against Cuba would have made England's fourth consecutive silver medal a certainty.

Until the 'Palmcorder', if you weren't rock steady neither were your pictures.



The best shots always happen when you're moving - the weddings, the christenings, the goodbyes on station platforms - you're either shaking with emotion, with laughter or being shaken in a moving vehicle.

It has always been a problem with ultra compact camcorders.

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This is thanks to a unique invention called the Digital Image Stabiliser.

Each frame is computer analysed and electronically smoothed giving you almost completely jitter-free pictures. Such an invention is all the more amazing

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Now has size limited the special effects. Digital Snapshot Recording lets you freeze an image for as long as 5 seconds, allowing you to use the camcorder as a video stills camera. The Digital Still and Digital Strobe Recording

give you interesting effects on action scenes.

The Digital Title Memory allows you to superimpose titles creatively using wipes and scrolls.

These effects are not only simple to use but simple to watch because, using VHS-C tape and the C-cassette adaptor supplied, you can play back immediately on a domestic video recorder.

All this in a camcorder that's ergonomically designed to fit into the palm of your hand.

We've called it the 'Palmcorder' (no prizes for guessing why).

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من الأصل

Gorbachev to root out food shop profiteers

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has promised to root out black marketing of food in a programme designed to ease severe shortages this winter. A survey of 50 state stores found that "when they close, they have a third shift" during which employees sell food illegally, Mr Gorbachev told parliament yesterday.

Shop assistants often set aside choice goods to sell later at inflated prices and pocketed additional profits.

"Within the next two or three weeks, we think we can control the situation," Mr Gorbachev said. He added that he was planning to in-

crease food supplies from domestic and overseas sources, and he had secured loans and credits to import flour, sugar, vegetable oil, margarine, meat, milk products and eggs.

The government was also stepping up its construction programme for food processing, and would set aside 12 million acres for "individual farming" in an attempt to increase domestic production, Mr Gorbachev said. He did not specify what types of food processing industries would be developed, or whether the additional land for individual farming would be owned by private farmers or collective farms.

On Monday, the parliament of the Russian federation approved a measure allowing private land ownership, but the national legislature has not taken that step. The United States, Germany and Italy have begun sending food aid to the Soviet Union, and other Western and Asian countries have promised support. Soviet officials blame distribution difficulties for the increasing number of empty shelves in shops.

Mr Gorbachev also formally proposed to the Soviet parliament a number of constitutional amendments to reorganise his government by creating a vice-presidency, abolishing his presidential council, and giving more power to an advisory board representing the 15 republics.

The reforms await approval by the Congress of People's Deputies, which is to sit on December 17.

• OSLO: President Gorbachev has named Anatoli Kovalev, a deputy foreign minister, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on his behalf here next Monday, the Nobel institute announced yesterday.

Mr Gorbachev said last week he would postpone his visit to Norway because of developments at home which prevented him from being absent from the Soviet Union even for one day.

The award ceremony takes place on the December 10 anniversary of the birth, in 1833, of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who founded the prize. On Mr Gorbachev's behalf Mr Kovalev will receive a bronze plaque, a diploma and a cheque for four million Swedish crowns (£375,000).

Arriving in Oslo on Saturday, Mr Kovalev will stay for four days meeting, among others, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister, and Thorvald Stoltenberg, her foreign minister.

The Nobel committee hopes Mr Gorbachev will visit Norway next May to deliver the traditional Nobel lecture. Since the first award in 1901, wives, ambassadors and friends have, on several occasions, stood in for prize winners.

Yelena Bonner, the wife of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet physicist, accepted his peace prize in 1975. (AP)

Mir rendezvous

Moscow — The spacecar carrying Toyohiro Akiyama, a journalist aged 43, and two Soviet cosmonauts has docked with the orbiting Soviet space station, Mir. Mr Akiyama is the first journalist and first Japanese to go into space. (Reuters)

Fans defect

Oslo — Two dozen Romanian volleyball supporters refused to return home after a European Cup match and some applied for political asylum, police said here. The group, travelling with the Universitatea Craiova team, failed to turn up for a charter flight home. (AP)

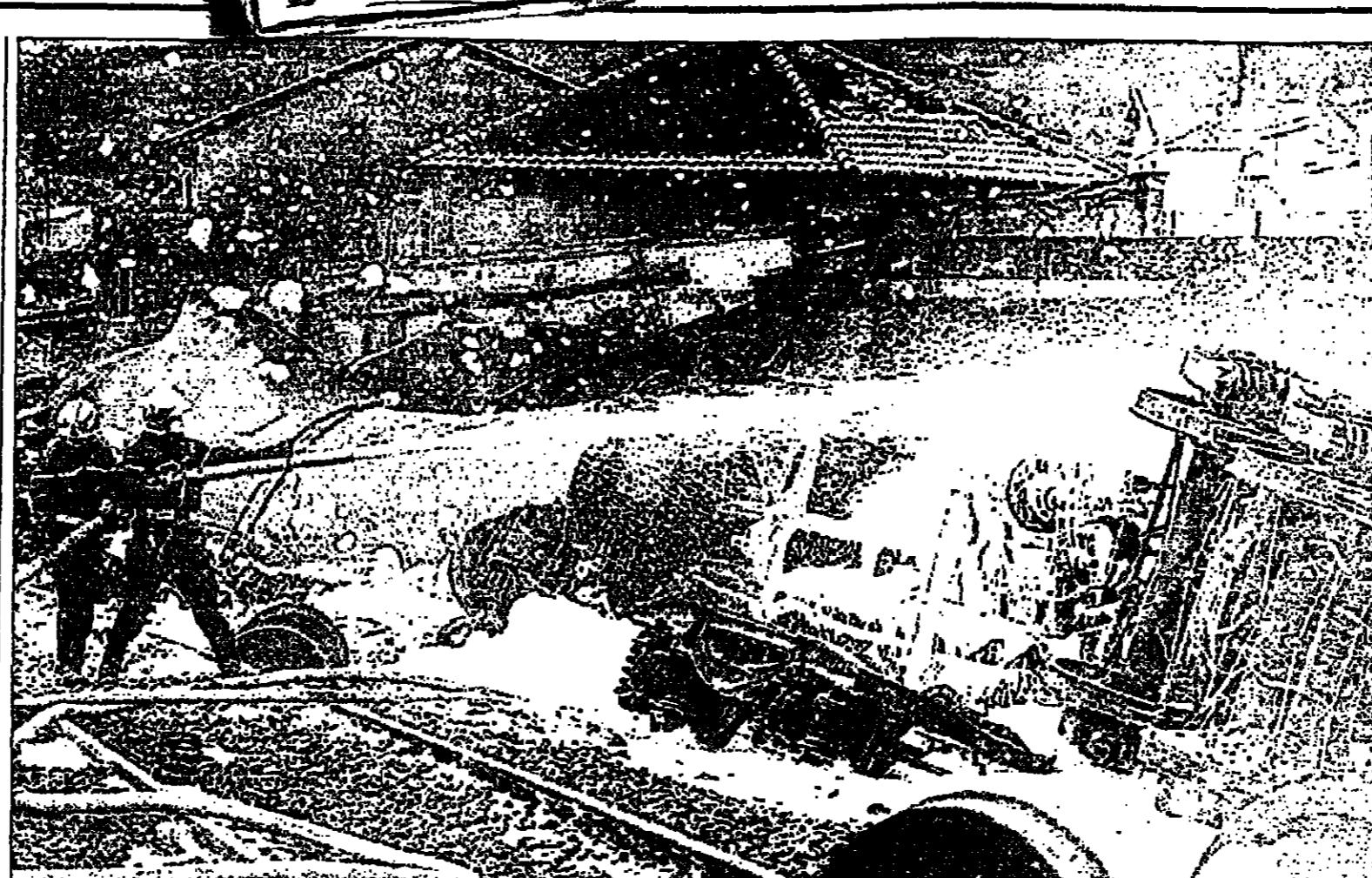
Taxing business

Catania — Sicilian shopkeepers and businessmen who have to pay protection money to the Mafia on top of taxes, have suggested that extortion should be a tax-deductible business expense. (Reuters)

THE Russian federation faces a big drop in oil exports and declining output of coal, timber and some key metals, according to a report presented to its legislators as they gathered to press for greater economic independence.

The document, prepared by Russia's state committee on the economy, indicates the extent of the breakdown in central planning and the chaos that may ensue as the largest Soviet republic lurches towards a market economy.

It was presented to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies as the republic's government, headed by Boris Yeltsin, sought a mandate for a radical economic course and



Railway wreckage: firemen spraying foam over a derailed freight train in the Loire valley, about 30 miles south of Lyons. Petrol in some of the train's 22 wagons fuelled the blaze, which raged out of control for eight hours, destroying four homes. There were no casualties

Liberals give Kohl ultimatum

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

DESPITE his election triumph, Helmut Kohl will not be re-elected as chancellor if he refuses to adopt a plan by the liberal Free Democrats for making eastern Germany into a low-tax area, Count Otto Lambsdorff, the party leader, makes clear in an interview with *Bild*, published today.

The chancellor needs the support of the 79 FDP Bundestag members in order to command a majority with his Christian Democrats (CDU), and Count Otto started a first round of negotiations with Herr Kohl on forming a new coalition yesterday, determined to have his way.

If the FDP's tax plan was not accepted then Herr Kohl would not have the party's support when the Bundestag meets in Berlin on December 20 to pick the chancellor for the next four years.

The FDP plan, outlined in *Bild*, is to put a ceiling of 40 per cent on company tax in eastern Germany, compared with the top level of 65 per cent in the west. Individual income tax levels for anyone working in the east would also be reduced by between 20 and 25 per cent, whether or not they chose to actually live in the west. The tax relief would also apply to foreign com-

panies deciding to set up a business in eastern Germany.

Herr Kohl derided this plan during the election as being no more than a leftover from the year that the FDP spent in government with the Social Democratic Party. "That's what they get from lying in the same bed as socialists for so long," he told election rallies.

Count Otto, however, said yesterday that he was determined to push the plan through. He said the FDP believed this was the surest way to attract investment quickly and also minimise the tax burden on the local population without forcing up salaries and inflation.

The tax idea also has the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and the FDP's dominant personality. In an interview with *Der Spiegel* he said that although his party was stronger than before, it was not necessarily seeking more ministries. What the FDP wanted was to introduce priorities for the speedy development of the east, including making it a low-tax area.

Herr Kohl had talks yesterday with Theo Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister party of the CDU. The two

then met Count Otto for a first round of bargaining over ministries and coalition politics.

Figures released during the day helped to support the chancellor's election claim that it would be possible to pay for restructuring eastern Germany without any increase in taxation levels.

The figures, covering the third quarter of the year, show the economy growing at 5.5 per cent, higher than at any time since 1976. At the same time unemployment in the west over the quarter was 122,000 less than in the same period last year. The main factor in this growth has been the enormous demand for consumer goods after German economic union on July 1.

While Herr Kohl set about building a government for the next four years, the SPD was struggling to find a someone capable of leading them in the forthcoming period of opposition ahead.

Its candidate in the election, Oskar Lafontaine, announced that he was determined to plunge back into local state politics in his native Saarland, and Hans-Joachim Vogel, the party chairman for the past four years, said he would definitely not be seeking re-election at the next party

conference in May.

This came as a double blow to the party, which needs strong leadership to hold it together after a third consecutive election defeat if it is to mount a credible challenge to Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats in four years' time.

After an election campaign which drew harsh criticism from SPD elder statesmen such as the former chancellor, Helmut Schmidt,

there is talk of a serious split opening in the party if someone does not take a firm hand quickly.

For all the controversy surrounding him, Herr Lafontaine remains the party's dominant thinker and his campaign has committed the SPD in opposition to fight for new measures to protect the environment through taxation as the number one priority. This idea found favour with the bulk of the working population since exit polls showed that the majority of voters in the 25 to 39 age group voted SPD, even if the youngest voters of all supported Herr Kohl's unification bandwagon.

Herr Lafontaine had always said that if he lost he would go back to the Saarland, where he has built an impressive power base, rather than stay on in Bonn. Herr Vogel, however, who is tired after leading the party since he lost to Herr Kohl in 1987, had expected to be able to stand down in favour of the chancellor candidate and the party believed that Herr Lafontaine would in the end be dragged into accepting.

According to Reinhold Kopp, one of Herr Lafontaine's closest advisors in the Saarland, it is still quite possible that he may go back into national politics.

Mussolini son to sue over misuse of 'fascist'

From RICHARD BASSETT
IN ROME

VITTORIO, oldest son of Mussolini, the second world war fascist dictator, has been granted leave to sue the Italian state railway and the mayor of Bologna for describing the bombing of Bologna railway station in 1980 as a fascist act.

The timing of the election, which opinion polls forecast as being a close-run affair between the ruling centre-right groups and the opposition, will make it difficult for Denmark to decide on key European economic and monetary union issues at the two-day Rome summit, due to start next Friday.

The parties' agreement means parliament has the consensus it needs for the vote. Denmark has so far held two referendums on Europe. In 1972, two-thirds of Danes endorsed EC membership along with Britain and Ireland; and in 1986 they voted 76 per cent in favour of Luxembourg reforms designed to pave the way for the Single European Act.

Denmark, long one of the most lukewarm community members and second only to Britain in its scepticism about Europe, has recently undergone a sea change in its attitude. The breaching of the Berlin Wall concentrated Danish minds on Europe, reminding them of the danger of an all-powerful German neighbour and rekindling bitter memories of the loss of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia in 1864 and the Nazi occupation of 1945.

The change of attitude reflects economic realities, as well as a general consensus that EC institutions should be strengthened, to guarantee that the united Germany is firmly anchored in an integrated Europe.

Bulgarian opposition left in disarray as party leader goes

From TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

SOULARIA'S main opposition party MPs yesterday afternoon did not know if they still had a leader. On Monday Petar Beron, the head of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), announced his "intention to resign" amid allegations that he had been a secret police informer during Bulgaria's years of communism. In a widely disbelieved statement Mr Beron, who is the UDF candidate for prime minister, said that he wanted to resign

"Beron was known to the secret police by the codename 'Bontcho'. The UDF agreed to nominate him as prime minister, but two weeks ago an article appeared in the socialist newspaper *Duma* which said that socialist leaders knew who 'Bontcho' was.

From then on he understood that it was impossible for him to stay on in this position. 'Bontcho' is Beron."

Last week Dr Trenchev's trade union movement began a general strike which brought down the government of Andrei Lukyanov. The UDF and the socialists are now negotiating a form of coalition government. While some opposition figures, such as the militantly anti-socialist Dr Trenchev, are known to be against the coalition, others, including Mr Beron, want to participate. The UDF leader has also made known his ambition to be prime minister.

Parliament in Sofia was last night awash with rumours. One UDF MP, Krassen Stanchev, suggested that the party leader was the victim, not of a socialist plot, nor the casualty of his known disagreements with Dr Trenchev, but had been pushed by erstwhile colleagues who wanted to replace him with a more hardline anti-socialist party leader.

According to Reinhold Kopp, one of Herr Lafontaine's closest advisors in the Saarland, it is still quite possible that he may go back into national politics.

The decision was hailed by many as conclusive evidence that "irrational antipathy" to the legacy of Mussolini was finally over.

AS YOU TRAVEL IT SOON BECOMES CLEAR THAT SPAIN OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAMPLE SOME VERY GOOD WINES IN PERFECT SETTINGS. THE BARS AND CAFES NOT ONLY PROVIDE REFUGE FROM THE SUN, BUT A WIDE SELECTION OF COOL, FRAGRANT

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THE LIGHTER REDS ARE GOOD COMPANY FOR LOCAL DISHES, AND ALWAYS MAKE EASY DRINKING.

DINNER, USUALLY CALLS FOR ONE OF SPAIN'S FULL-BODIED OAK-AGED RED WINES.

WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU'LL FIND A WINE FROM SPAIN FOR EVERY OCCASION.

Russian deputies warned of economic slump

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

increased autonomy from the central Soviet authorities.

Mr Silayev, a respected moderate, deplored the central Soviet authorities' financial profligacy. He said Russia's textile industry was "paralysed" because foreign suppliers, fearful of bad debts, had suspended deliveries.

He called for the republic to retain a much bigger share of export earnings. He also wanted Russia to say in energy and transport policies affecting the whole Soviet Union, an independent Russian prosecutor, and Russian control over the scores of factories now being switched from military to civilian production.

early easing in the acute shortages of consumer goods.

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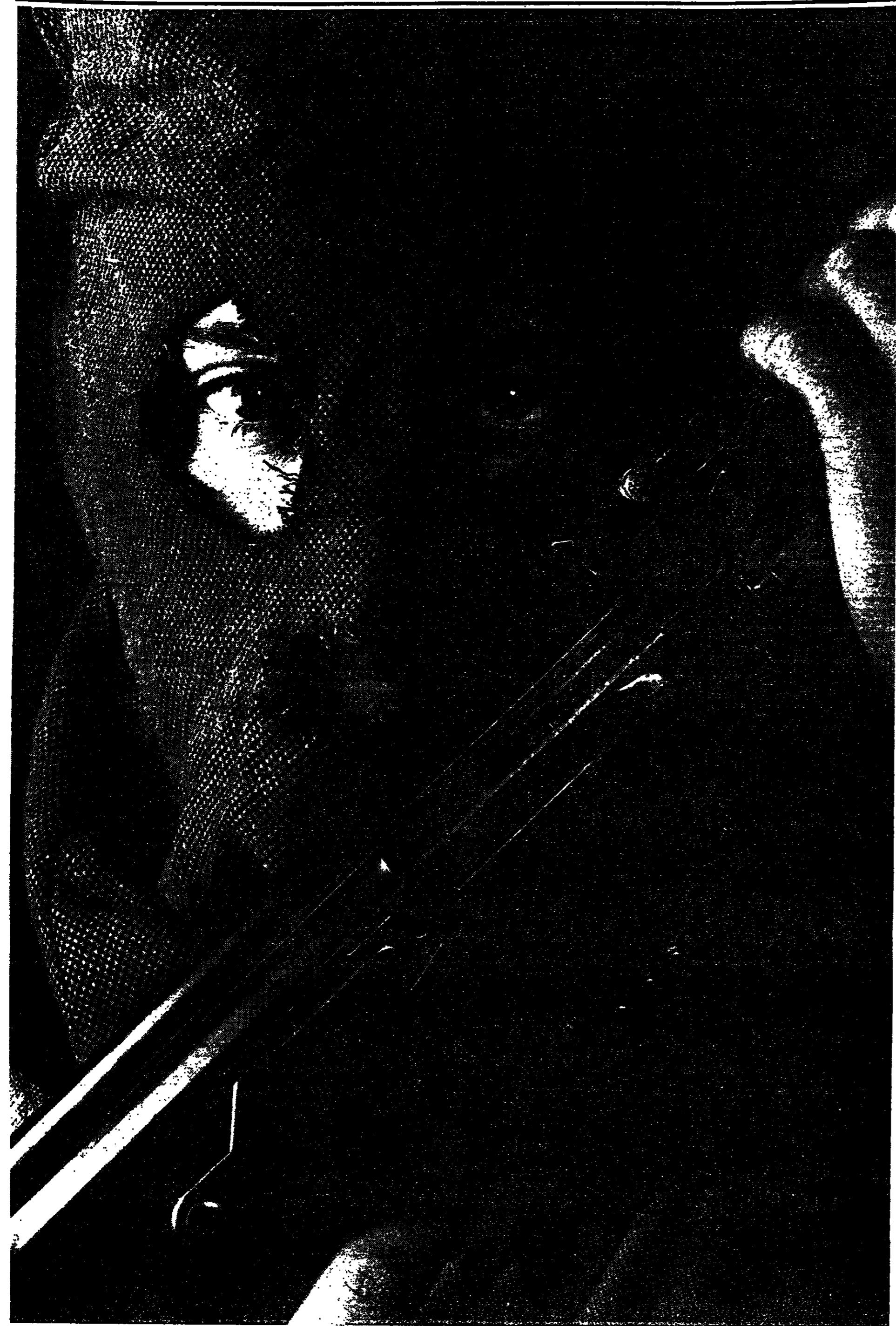
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CAN YOU IMAGINE LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH HIS EYES?

Who is he? This man who dares not show his face? Is he Palestinian, or Irish, Iranian, German or British?

Which group does he belong to? IRA? Bader-Meinhof? Red Brigade? UVF? Abu Nidal?

Whatever his label, he is a fanatic who believes that any actions, however callous and inhuman, are justified in support of his 'cause'.

The British Army has a great deal of experience of what we call 'counter-revolutionary' warfare. We fought terror in Palestine, Malaya, Aden and Cyprus. We served as part of the Multi National

Force in the Lebanon. And, of course, there's Northern Ireland.

Few people know better than Army Officers how terrorism damages innocent lives.

People who bully, shoot and bomb to achieve their ends are anathema to us.

But because they tend to be civilians who find shelter among the population at large, it is doubly difficult to find them and bring them to justice.

As an Army Officer, it's likely that you will do a tour in Northern Ireland.

But you might find yourself staring down the wrong end of a Kalashnikov

almost anywhere in the world.

If you find yourself pitted against a man like this, what is the best way to fight him?

'Know Your Enemy'. It's one of the oldest military maxims, but never is it apter than when dealing with terrorism.

To be effective against this man, you need to know how his mind works. Why he does what he does. What he is likely to do next.

You have no hope of understanding him if you go into a situation with a closed mind. Only if you open your mind to his.

Start by learning everything you can about the situation: historically, politically, militarily, socially.

Read the newspapers he reads. Listen to his local radio station. Eat the food he eats. Try to feel the rhythms of his life.

So when you're out on patrol you'll sense when something is amiss. It could be some tiny deviation from the norm. The children aren't around. There are no windows open on the street. A woman who normally says hello is silent.

That's when you start expecting the bombs or bullets.

As you become familiar with the situation you may well come to know individual 'terrorist' suspects.

You will look out for them and take note if you see them away from their usual haunts. But in dealing with them you must be polite and scrupulously fair.

This isn't just the old 'officer-and-gentleman' belief in fair play, important though that is.

On counter terrorist operations you will be operating under civil law. You can't act on suspicion alone.

You're upholding that law and must obey it, however frustrating that may be.

In dealing with civilians, whether hostile or friendly, you must set an example of fairness, courtesy and decency and take pains to protect any who may be endangered.

Sometimes you will have to exercise remarkable self-restraint.

What would you do if one of your men was lying in the street with his leg blown off and a crowd of hostile civilians gathered to jeer at him?

It is difficult not to be brutalised by brutality, but it's your responsibility to see that this does not happen.

Follow the rules of engagement. Use minimum force. Yet be prepared to act instantly should your life or others' lives be threatened.

Being effective in such situations calls for you to be brave, tough and decisive. Tolerant and open-minded. Fair, balanced and diplomatic. In short, a human paragon.

Do such people exist at all? If so, could it be possible that you are one of them? Maybe you worry, reading this, that you could never live up to such exacting standards.

Good. We would hate to give you the impression that an Army Officer's job is an easy one.

But equally, a lot of people who never thought they were 'officer material' have been amazed and delighted to be accepted.

Maybe it's a thousand years of recruiting experience. But we can often tell what you are capable of, even if you can't.

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King promises short sharp victory if Gulf war comes

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE

A GULF war would result in a "short, sharp, quick" victory for the allies, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday in the face of warnings by Labour backbenchers that a military conflict would result in widespread loss of life.

MPs also heard a stark warning from the defence secretary of more defence cuts and job losses in the wake of the ending of the cold war. Ministers expressed their anxiety that two councils, Helston and Gosport, had not heeded government advice to exempt servicemen posted to the Gulf from the poll tax.

James Lamond, Labour MP for Oldham Central and Royton, said that ministers were seriously considering an attack that would result in the

death of tens of thousands of children. Dave Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East, told Mr King that "blood and oil do not mix". There would be a bloodbath on both sides if force were used.

He cited the fears expressed by Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the Desert Rats, and Major Ewan London, his chief of staff, that an assault by the 1st Armoured Division on Iraqi positions

would lead to heavy British casualties. Mr Nellist maintained that Brigadier Cordingley was bracing himself for a casualty rate of 15 per cent among his men, or 4,500 deaths.

Annoyed scenes in the Commons, Mr Nellist said that an increasing number of people in Britain did not believe that such bloodshed was warranted.

Mr King said Mr Nellist had committed an error by equating casualties with fatalities. He would not "bandy figures around", but the extra troops being sent to the Gulf by Britain and its allies should be a casualty rate of 15 per cent among the troops of thousands of charge-payers.

He suggested that the defence ministry should pick up the bill. Mr Hamilton said that the matter would be covered by the review of the community charge now being undertaken. He appealed to councils to exempt troops serving overseas.

Earlier, Mr King spoke of more defence cuts on the way as a result of the *Options for Change* review. Up to 5,000 jobs are already in jeopardy at British Aerospace, partly because of the cancellation of an order for 33 Tornado fighter aircraft. There was more disappointment to come for many MPs and their constituents, Mr King said. They had to realise that the peace dividend could turn out to be a "loss of jobs dividend".

Conservative MPs supported the defence secretary in his insistence that if President Saddam did not yield to economic and diplomatic pressure, force would have to be used.

The Labour frontbencher did not contest Mr King's remarks.

Anti-nazi bill will proceed

The government is to proceed with the bill paving the way for the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals living in this country, the prime minister said at question time.

John Major said that the bill, which was thrown out by the Lords earlier this year, would be presented to the House with amendments that MPs' would wish to study.

Law reform decision

A bill to end the present situation in which a person found unfit to plead is detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital, whether or not guilty of the offence charged, is to be sponsored by John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale, who has won a place in the ballot for private members' bills. The bill has been drafted by the Law Society and Mr Greenway said that it has government support.

Waddington takes seat

David Waddington, the former home secretary, who was made Lord Privy Seal and leader of the House of Lords in the government changes last week, took his seat yesterday as Lord Waddington.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Debate on an Opposition motion on abolition of the poll tax.

Lords (2.30): Debates on a bill of rights, on land use, and on the route of the proposed road across Naseby battlefield.



Nellist: "blood and oil do not mix"

Kinnock's private treatment

By PETER MULLIGAN

HOSPITALS

NEIL Kinnock has received private medical treatment for a neck injury, it emerged yesterday after question time exchanges in the Commons in which he championed the National Health Service.

The disclosure was made after John Major, the prime minister, appeared to allude to the fact when he said: "Unlike some Labour MPs, I unfailingly use the NHS".

A spokesman for the Labour leader said later that the osteopathic treatment for the injury sustained playing rugby more than 20 years ago was not available on the NHS.

At question time, Mr Kinnock called on the prime

minister to scrap the opt-out scheme for NHS hospitals.

He accompanied his call by a reference to treatment Mr Major has received for a leg injury and for a wisdom tooth operation.

Mr Major responded that the NHS's future was entirely secure, with increased funding, as it had been for the past 10 years and as it would continue to be.

Mr Kinnock sought to embarrass Mr Major by raising the case of Hinchingbrooke hospital, which has the most enormous affection of all the people of the area.

He added to loud cheers from his own backbenchers: "I will tell him one further thing about Hinchingbrooke hospital – it was never available under a Labour government. It was this government which provided it."

Monetary union will force

uncertainty, and asking him to "make a start" by convincing his own constituents about its future. Waiting lists have doubled in the past two years, Mr Kinnock said.

Mr Major said: "Self-government is being proposed by the consultants and staff in Hinchingbrooke hospital which has the most enormous affection of all the people of the area."

He added to loud cheers from his own backbenchers: "I will tell him one further thing about Hinchingbrooke hospital – it was never available under a Labour government. It was this government which provided it."

MP battles on for better hours

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

Graham Allen, the Labour MP for Nottingham North, is renewing his campaign to reform the constitution and the workings of Parliament.

He had hoped that a new prime minister might mean a new broom ready to sweep away existing practices and rules. But his first foray ended in disappointment when he found that parliamentary questions tabled to John Major were swiftly transferred to other ministers for reply.

Tonight, Mr Allen will be putting three bills before the Commons in an attempt to establish a bill of rights, a written constitution and abolition of

the constitution under which the prime minister and the judiciary are separate from the legislature, as in America. In Britain, he points out, all appointments in effect are in the gift of the prime minister of the day.

Mr Allen also wants the Commons to sit "proper hours", from 11.30am until 7pm. He has tabled again motions that he put forward in the last session of Parliament to change the sitting time.

At present, MPs meet at 2.30pm and, although the sitting is supposed to end at 10.30, the standing order is suspended on most days to allow debates to go on into the night. Opponents of the changes argue that afternoon sittings involve a separation of powers of the constitution under which the prime minister and the judiciary are separate from the legislature, as in America. In Britain, he points out, all appointments in effect are in the gift of the prime minister of the day.

Mr Allen is not wildly optimistic that his radical proposals for the constitution of Parliament will find favour with the government, although he does have an ally in Douglas Hurd. The foreign secretary said during the leadership campaign

Monetary union wins full Ashdown support

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE

PADDY Ashdown gave unequivocal support yesterday to European monetary union and a single European currency amid renewed evidence of misgivings in the Labour party over the leadership's backing for much closer European integration.

Mr Ashdown attacked the confused positions of the Conservative and Labour leaderships which he alleged were designed to keep roughly in the same direction.

At the same time, Peter Shore, the veteran Labour anti-marketeer, described his party's new policy document on monetary union as disturbingly inadequate and Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, again emphasised the government's opposition to an imposed single currency.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Mr Shore calls for a single currency and supine a passage in the new policy that states that Britain's European Community partners want to move towards full union and a single currency and "Labour" believes that it would not be in the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from such developments".

Mr Ashdown, speaking in London, said that while Westminster engaged in its parochial disputes about the nature of sovereignty and the optics of federalism, the rest of Europe was constantly moving on and deciding this country's future without it. He accused Labour leaders of verbal and intellectual gymnastics, saying that the new policy paper was carefully laced with so many conditions that would be unacceptable to Britain's EC partners as to make it a meaningless commitment.

He said that under Labour's plans the central bank would have to be accountable to finance ministers and committed to growth strategies that were quite unsuited to its objective of price stability and sound money. While the Conservatives said that any form of monetary union would be unacceptable to the British Parliament, Labour ensured that its form of monetary union would be unacceptable to all the other parliaments.

Mr Ashdown said that the advantages of monetary union were compelling: it would make trade and cross-border capital flows easier, improve the efficiency of European capital movements, and make the City a force for constructive investment. It would also give to the British economy the balm of a counter-inflation policy that it had lacked in past years.

He said that monetary union was no easy option.

Monetary union will force

Britain to face its poor economic record. It will force us to address the problems of skill shortages and inadequate educational standards. It will force us to find the right investments in our transport and other infrastructure projects. The days of wishful thinking are over. The days of hard thinking will have to start."

Turning to political union, Mr Ashdown said that the European debate must stop being one about the power of nations, and start to be one about the entitlement of citizens.

He was not afraid to use the word "federal" to describe what might be coming. "But I am convinced that what we are about to create will not look like any existing federal structure... Europe will not be a nation state with large, It will not be like the United States of America in that sense. Europe will embody a unique set of political and economic relationships." He will never happen but we need to be persuaded that the advantages of the single currency are great enough to outweigh the disadvantages," he said. At the conference on EMU organised by the Centre for Policy Studies, Europe was not ready economically for a single currency and it might be a long time before it was.

Letters, page 13

Field for committee post

FRANK Field (Birkhead, Lab)

is expected to be elected chairman of the Commons select committee on social security next week and Sir David Price (Eastleigh, C) is favourite to be chairman of the health committee. The two new committees replace the social services committee and will shadow the work of the health department and the social security department.

Members of the social security committee will be Mr Field, Andrew Bennett (Lab), Jeremy Corbyn (Lab), Stephen Day (C), Tony Favell (C), Robert Hughes (C), Ian McCartney (Lab), Patrick Nicholls (C) and Gary Waller (C). Another Conservative and a representative from one of the smaller parties have still to be appointed.

The health committee will include Tom Clarke (Lab), Jerry Hayes (C), Roger Sims (C), Audrey Wise (Lab), David Hinchliffe (Lab), Alice Mahon (Lab), Andrew Rowe (C), James Couchman (C), Sir David Price, Nicholas Winterton (C) and the Rev Martin Smyth (UU).

Welsh Tories elect Grist

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFIANCE

WELSH Conservative MPs sent a defiant signal to the prime minister last night over his decision to dismiss Ian Grist, junior minister at the Welsh Office.

They elected Mr Grist as chairman of their parliamentary group as a mark of solidarity with him in the wake of his replacement by Nicholas Bennett, MP for Pembroke.

John Major's decision to dismiss Mr Grist has been criticised as a blunder by the Welsh Tories because it left open the interpretation that it was retaliation against them for backing Michael Heseltine.

Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for Clywd North-West, had been due to become chairman of the group last night but stepped aside for Mr Grist.

Most of the seven Welsh Tory MPs were on record as backing Mr Heseltine and David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, was the only cabinet minister to support him.

Mr Hunt attempted to defuse the dispute yesterday by stating that he had recommended Mr Bennett for promotion.

That statement surprised Welsh Tories, but they noted that Mr Hunt had not said that he had recommended Mr Grist's removal. Downing Street sources said that Mr Hunt and Mr Major had consulted over the team of Welsh ministers and that Mr Major was determined to bring on new talent.

Mr Hunt said that suggestions that Mr Bennett was brought in because of Mr Grist's support for Mr Heseltine were a misunderstanding.

Mr Grist, MP for Cardiff Central, has said he was "misled" to lose his job as parliamentary under-secretary of state. Mr Bennett, aged 41, was a prominent member of Mr Major's party leadership campaign team.

Mr Grist, who had been one of the three Welsh Office ministers, said last night that he was "the most sackable of the three leaves on the tree". Asked whether he was dismissed because he backed Mr Heseltine, he said: "I think so. It was that and the need to find a reward for the diligence of my replacement, a little bit of both."

NUMBER VII. FULL AHEAD - SLOW. (ON TAKING THE LOW-LOADER ROAD HOME).

GLENMORANGIE
10 YEARS OLD
SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

Tom Anderson
SEDATELY negotiates
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Haste is NOT a prerequisite of a Glenmorangie tractorman.

HANDCRAFTED by THE SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

France hints at readiness to break ranks over Kuwait

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

IN a significant departure from allied policy on the Gulf, Pierre Chevénement, the French defence minister, yesterday hinted that Kuwait's borders might be redrawn if President Saddam Hussein would first agree to pull his troops out of the country.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, who is closer to President Mitterrand and more influential than the defence minister, echoed M Chevénement's call for an international conference on the Middle East if the Gulf confrontation was peacefully resolved. America and Britain have refused to link such a conference directly to any negotiations over Kuwait.

Since President Saddam has made frequent demands for a broad-ranging international conference on the Middle East, France's assertion that there should be "linkage" between any settlement with Iraq and wider issues such as the Palestinian question will cause concern among her Western allies.

The ambiguities of French policy since the confrontation began have previously raised questions

about the true objectives of the government's strategy. Only two days ago, M Dumas mused aloud about the possibility of going to Baghdad after the planned visit of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, later this month.

M Chevénement, who has been criticised for his past membership of a Franco-Iraqi friendship society, said that an Iraqi agreement to withdraw from Kuwait would open the way to discussing the "modesties" of adjusting the map of the contested frontier. "There is a territorial dispute and a financial dispute," he said on French television late on Monday night.

"Some good geographers have already studied what could be the shape of frontiers that, you must admit, are mostly very recent... there is a matter here for discussion."

According to the defence minister, whom some see as the French government's main " dove " on the Gulf confrontation, agreement by Baghdad to leave Kuwait would open the way for a UN peace-keeping force to be deployed there, followed by an international conference on the region's problems. "If there is a chance to avoid war, we must grasp it," he said, echoing President Mitterrand's observation in September that "everything would become possible" after an Iraqi withdrawal.

M Dumas' observations in Paris yesterday will be studied particularly closely, since he is one of President Mitterrand's closest advisers. He told the parliament of the Western European Union that "a global regulation" of Middle Eastern problems would have to follow hard on the heels of resolution of the Gulf confrontation.

Singing out Lebanon and the Israel-Palestinian confrontation, M Dumas said that France regarded an international conference as the perfect canvas under which to hold talks aimed at working out individual settlements. "Plenty of other major powers think the same, including the United States," M Dumas maintained. The failure to hold out a prospect of reaching agreement in such cases would put more arguments into President Saddam's hands.

M Dumas also raised the sensitive matter of the West's contribution to building up the powerful Iraqi armed forces. France "regretted" its own substantial deliveries of weapons, he said, while it was up to every other nation involved "to make its *mea culpa* and draw the appropriate conclusions from the experience".

Both M Dumas and M Chevénement were adamant that President Saddam must make the first move by quitting Kuwait, and both sounded fairly pessimistic about the chances of avoiding war. France was obliged to prepare for conflict, M Dumas acknowledged: "the countdown has started," said M Chevénement, and the chances of peace were "relatively weak."

Meanwhile, ministry of defence figures released yesterday said the Gulf crisis will cost France FF1.27 billion (£131 million) this year.

The Defence Ministry is asking parliament to add an extra FF1.67 billion immediately to 1990's military budget of FF230.77 billion.

The Gulf operation, in which more than 6,000 French soldiers have been sent to Saudi Arabia, was the largest unexpected operation of the year. Others included French military intervention in the African states of Chad, Gabon, the Central African Republic and the Comoro Islands as well as in Lebanon.

Leading article, p13



Friendly clinch: Muhammad Ali hugs Royce Smart, one of 15 American hostages who was released by Iraq after a mission to Baghdad by the former heavyweight boxing champion

Military chief steals the limelight in US build-up

FROM SUSAN ELLCOTT IN WASHINGTON

COLIN POWELL is America's most talked-about joint chiefs of staff chairman. Not only, at 53, is he the youngest man to hold the post, but he is also the first black and the first head of the armed services to serve as the American president's chief military adviser since Congress expanded the powers of the position four years ago.

As Mr Bush has worked over the past four months to sell the most rapid mass deployment of United States troops since the second world war to an increasingly sceptical public, General Powell has emerged as an important ambassador on Capitol Hill, explaining in his affable and unassuming style the thinking behind his country's military strategy toward Iraq.

The four-star general is a Vietnam veteran, who believes a strong nation should wield its power with care, but commit forces quickly and in large numbers when military action is needed, in order to limit casualties and avoid prolonged fighting. He has made clear it will review the extended powers of General Pow-

ell's post once the Gulf confrontation is over.

At ease with the media, General Powell (whose pronounces the first syllable of his first name to rhyme with "grow") has been tipped as a possible running mate for President Bush in 1992. His name on the ticket could encourage the return to the Republican party of black voters, who defected almost 70 years ago in favour of the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, who grew up before racial desegregation in one of New York's poorest districts, General Powell joined the army after earning a degree in geology. Rare in his rank for not having passed through West Point, the elite military training academy, one of his favourite maxims is: "You are not limited by anything but your own ability." His political credentials include posts at the Pentagon and White House, including that of national security adviser during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

The Democrat-led Senate has made clear it will review the extended powers of General Powell once the Gulf confrontation is over.

Husain in Iraq for more talks

From ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN BAGHDAD

KING Husain of Jordan arrived here yesterday for talks with President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf conflict and other issues, Arab diplomats said.

The Jordanian monarch was received at the airport by President Saddam and senior officials and the two leaders went into the presidential palace for immediate talks.

King Husain is a regular visitor to Baghdad. Although Jordan has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, it has been supportive of Iraq and has sought an Arab solution.

Diplomats said the two leaders planned to discuss the forthcoming visit to Washington of Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, who has been invited by President Bush.

Amnesty report claims Tehran executed 5,000 in three years

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IRANIAN officials known as the "Death Commission" condemned more than 2,500 people to be executed in a six-month period in 1988 "in the most horrific wave of political executions in Iran since the early 1980s," according to an Amnesty International report published today.

The report, which says executions are continuing, puts the number at 5,000 in the past three years and will be a further blow to Iran's overtures to the West for closer relations and greater trade and investment.

A special United Nations envoy, who visited Tehran earlier this year with the permission of the authorities, published a critical report on the regime's human rights record.

As a result 32 American senators have called for additional

Soviet contract workers free to leave Baghdad

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ backed away from a growing confrontation with the Soviet Union yesterday and announced that, starting today, all 3,500 Soviet contract workers would be allowed to leave.

In a statement by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Baghdad said it was taking the decision after Moscow had threatened to use force if any of its nationals were mistreated. "Any Soviet expert wishing to leave will be free to go as of Wednesday provided the Soviet government alone bears the responsibility for the effects of breach of contracts," a spokesman said.

Baghdad recently has grown increasingly concerned that Moscow's diplomatic support for UN actions could translate into a military commitment to the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia and that it would use its stranded workers in Iraq as a pretext for action.

President Saddam Hussein had promised to allow 1,000 Soviet nationals to return home by the end of last month. But only 300 Russians were allowed to go and the authorities stopped issuing exit visas. The Iraqi move was possibly calculated to influence last week's UN Security Council vote, which set a deadline for it to withdraw from Kuwait and opened the way for military action in January.

Far from being intimidated by Iraq's tactic, Moscow voted in favour of the resolution and, in an interview with *Pravda*, Edward Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, said: "We will take all necessary steps in this case. Everyone should know that we will not hesitate to use force to protect our citizens."

The Soviet Union, which has by far the largest expatriate community in Iraq, is committed to a number of lucrative projects in the country, including the running of key oilfields in southern Iraq and technical assistance on Soviet-made military equipment, which forms the bulk of the Iraqi arsenal. There are still an estimated 30 or 40 Russian military personnel working for Baghdad.

The spokesman added that the release of details had been delayed until the next of kin had been informed. He said the corporal was the second of the British contingent in the Gulf to die, the first being the pilot of a Jaguar jet aircraft killed when his plane crashed last month.

Nearly fifty members of the 270,000-strong United States contingent have died accidentally. According to military sources, one death was a confirmed suicide.

Guerrillas killed

Beirut — A Palestinian guerrilla was killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with an Israeli patrol inside the security zone in southern Lebanon, security sources said. They said an Israeli patrol of the Givati Brigade clashed with guerrillas of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine trying to infiltrate northern Israel.

Role stepped up

Canberra — Australia is stepping up its role in the Gulf. Bob Hawke, the prime minister, announced here. He told parliament that economic sanctions did not appear to be working, and Australia was therefore putting the destroyer Brisbane, frigate Sydney and supply vessel Success under American operational control.

Japan sends envoy

Tokyo — Stung by criticism that it has failed to help its hostages in Iraq, Japan is sending an envoy on a three-day mission to Baghdad and drawing up a contingency plan in advance of the United Nation's January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. (Reuters)

Fire cuts oil output

Dubai — A fire at the world's biggest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia cut output by nearly half, oil industry sources in the Gulf said. Output at Ras Tanura, 160 miles south of occupied Kuwait and a supplier of fuel for the multinational force confronting Iraq, had fallen by 230,000 barrels a day to about 300,000, the sources said. (Reuters)

PLO loss £1bn

Cairo — The Palestine Liberation Organisation believes it has lost \$2 billion (£1.03 billion) in income since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Palestinian sources said. They said the PLO's income had been slashed by about 50 per cent because Arab benefactors thought it ungrateful for not condemning the invasion. (Reuters)

Major to hold talks with Israeli leader

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major is to hold talks with Yitzhak Shamir, his Israeli counterpart, at Downing Street tomorrow at a time when Britain is considering supporting a United Nations Security Council resolution giving the UN a greater role in solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Such a move would displease Jerusalem, which is thought to regard Britain as the country most likely, after the United States, to help it avoid a greater UN involvement. Discussions on a new resolution are expected to begin in New York today under the chairmanship of Yemen, which has been less critical of Iraq than the other 14 members of the council.

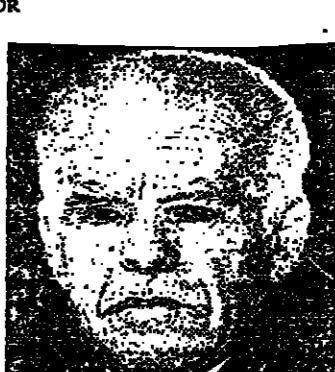
Britain would want any resolution to avoid an implied linkage between the Kuwait and Palestinian issues. Any suggestion that

Yemen was using its position to help Baghdad would lose London's support. But texts put forward by the non-aligned group and others are understood to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian issue separately.

Britain supported resolution 672, which reflected international concern after the killing of 20 Palestinian demonstrators at Temple Mount on October 8. Israel refused to accept a UN investigation. Mr Major's meeting with Mr Shamir will be his first with a leader of a country with which Britain has important policy differences since he became prime minister.

Mr Shamir will stay in Britain for less than 24 hours before flying to New York to meet Jewish groups, and then to Washington to see President Bush next week.

JERUSALEM: The newspaper



Shamir: meeting Mr Major before flying to America

Yedioth Ahronoth yesterday published a full-page 1991 colour businessman's calendar of expected Palestinian protest days in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

Lawyers take on Godfather yet again

THE most celebrated plumbings salesman in New York is again heading for the dock. John Gotti, better known as the Godfather of the Gambinos, America's most powerful Mafia family, owes his return to "heating the rap" three times in the last four years, afeat that has earned him wide respect in the underworld for invincibility. One might think prosecutors would be none too keen to tackle the formidable Mr Gotti so soon after his last court triumph earlier this year, but that is not the case, according to the local media, which follow the fortunes of the Mob with the fervour that their British brethren devote to the royal family. So much glory will go to the man who finally nails the dapper alleged don that two federal prosecutors were involved in a fued over the right to bring charges.

Last week the Justice Department ruled in favour of Andrew Maloney, the Brooklyn prosecutor, giving him his second chance to haul in Mr Gotti on charges of racketeering. This time an additional murder charge is expected, thanks to the evidence of Philip Leonetti, an

informant who is to testify he heard Mr Gotti boast that he ordered the execution of Big Paul Castellano, his predecessor as chief of the Gambinos, outside a restaurant in Manhattan in 1985. Mr Leonetti's future health prospects are the subject of widespread conjecture in the coffee shops of Manhattan.

Other evidence will include more from the Gotti tapes, the vast collection of conversations secretly recorded by the FBI, in which the alleged Mafia chief can be heard conducting business from the Bergen Fish and

Hunt Club, the establishment in where he spends much of his time. The conversations, in a disjointed code of obscenities and allusion, have come to represent something of a benchmark for Mobspak. They need polish, for example, the dialogue in Martin Scorsese's new film *GoodFellas*.

And last week, officials revealed that the Mafia was moving with the ecological times, competing to dominate the new recycling game, called the "greening of the Mob" by the media. Bookshops are sporting new "large-print" sections which

offer big-type versions of bestsellers printed on ultra-thin paper which keeps down the overall size of the volumes. You can buy board games in similar format. Shearson-Lehman, the stockbroking chain, is printing its offerings in larger type and *Forbes*, the business magazine, has retooled its typeface to making reading easier on older eyes. General Motors, the purveyor of the Corvettes, Firebirds and those other youthmobiles of the 60s and 70s, is offering "head-up" speedometers that project their figures onto the windscreen, removing the need to refocus the eyes.

The season of goodwill is back with its usual force, despite the economic depression now looming over the Big Apple. The tree has been lit in the Rockefeller Centre, now under Japanese ownership, and bank tellers and policemen have switched from "have a nice day" to "happy holidays". The new hard times are, however, visible. Santa and Twinkle Toes have been booted from their traditional post at the headquarters of the *Daily News* on 42nd Street, victim of the strike which has crippled the newspaper.

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Gorbachev to root out food shop profiteers

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has promised to root out black marketeering of food in a programme designed to ease severe shortages this winter. A survey of 50 state stores found that "when they close, they have a third shift" during which employees sell food illegally. Mr Gorbachev told parliament yesterday.

Shop assistants often set aside choice goods to sell later at inflated prices and pocketed additional profits.

"Within the next two or three weeks, we think we can control the situation," Mr Gorbachev said. He added that he was planning to in-

crease food supplies from domestic and overseas sources, and he had secured loans and credits to import flour, sugar, vegetable oil, margarine, meat, milk products and eggs.

The government was also stepping up its construction programme for food processing and would set aside 12 million acres for "individual farming" in an attempt to increase domestic production, Mr Gorbachev said. He did not specify what types of food processing industries would be developed, or whether the additional land for individual farming would be owned by private farmers or collective farms.

On Monday, the parliament of the Russian federation approved a measure allowing private land ownership, but the national legislature has not taken that step. The United States, Germany and Italy have begun sending food aid to the Soviet Union, and other Western and Asian countries have promised support. Soviet officials blame distribution difficulties for the increasing number of empty shelves in shops.

Mr Gorbachev also formally proposed to the Soviet parliament a number of constitutional amendments to reorganise his government by creating a vice-presidency, abolishing his presidential council, and giving more power to an advisory board representing the 15 republics.

The reforms await approval by the Congress of People's Deputies, which is to sit on December 17.

• OSLO: President Gorbachev has named Anatoli Kovalev, a deputy foreign minister, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on his behalf here next Monday, the Nobel Institute announced yesterday.

Mr Gorbachev said last week he would postpone his visit to Norway because of developments at home which prevented him from being absent from the Soviet Union, even for one day.

The award ceremony takes place on the December 10 anniversary of the birth, in 1833, of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who founded the prize. On Mr Kovalev's behalf Mr Kovalev will receive a bronze plaque, a diploma and a cheque for four million Swedish crowns (£375,000).

Arriving in Oslo on Saturday, Mr Kovalev will stay for four days meeting, among others, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister, and Thorvald Stoltenberg, her foreign minister. The Nobel committee hopes Mr Gorbachev will visit Norway next May to deliver the traditional Nobel lecture.

Since the first award in 1901, wives, ambassadors and friends have, on several occasions, stood in for prize winners. Yelena Bonner, the wife of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet physicist, accepted his peace prize in 1975. (APF)

Fans defect

Oslo — Two dozen Romanian volleyball supporters refused to return home after a European Cup match and some applied for political asylum, police said here. The group, traveling with the Universitatea Craiova team, failed to turn up for charter flight home. (AP)

Taxing business

Catania — Sicilian shopkeepers and businessmen who have to pay protection money to the Mafia on top of taxes have suggested that extortion should be a tax-deductible business expense. (Reuter)

Russian deputies warned of economic slump

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Russian federation faces a big drop in oil exports and declining output of coal, timber and some key metals, according to a report presented to its legislators as they gathered to press for greater economic independence.

The document, prepared by Russia's state committee on the economy, indicates the extent of the breakdown in central planning and the chaos that may ensue as the largest Soviet republic hurtles towards a market economy.

It was presented to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies as the republic's government, headed by Boris Yeltsin, sought a mandate for a radical economic course and

increased autonomy from the central Soviet authorities.

The report gives a warning that its predictions may not take full account of inflation, and predicts a 3 per cent drop in Russia's national income next year. Other black spots include a dive in exports to 71 million tonnes from 120 million this year, presumably owing in part to the end of subsidised sales to Eastern Europe.

The report projects increases in housing construction and the output of electricity, basic chemicals and consumer goods, but Ivan Silayev, the Russian prime minister, issued a warning that there would not be an

early easing in the acute shortages of consumer goods.

Mr Silayev, a respected moderate, deplored the central Soviet authorities' financial profligacy. He said Russia's textile industry was "paralysed" because foreign suppliers, fearful of bad debts, had suspended deliveries.

He called for the republic to retain a much bigger share of export earnings. He also wanted a Russian say in energy and transport policies affecting the whole Soviet Union, an independent Russian prosecutor, and Russian control over the scores of factories now being switched from military to civilian production.

wheel and they are transformed into snarling, speed-mad bullies whose "75" number plate is rightly feared throughout the land. The idea that all people, should be restricted to a piffling 50kph and obliged to waste a few seconds on every journey chink-clicking in the back seat is perceived as intolerable.

Thus, experimenting lawfully on one of the main avenues the Sunday the new limit was introduced, our correspondent ran the gauntlet of hooting, headlight flashing and the vivid gestures that Parisians reserve for those who get in their way. A French reporter who tried sticking to 50kph on the first working day faced even worse, with outraged motorists

prefect of Paris, it was originally intended to apply the reduced limit to the *périphérique* that encircles the capital. When not jammed solid, it is a daunting race-track, almost every yard of which carries ominous skid marks. On mature reflection, M Verbrugge decided, "it would have been very difficult to obtain respect for 50kph."

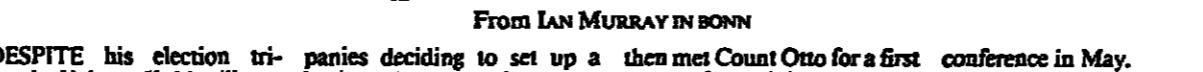
The rear seat belt law is also straining tempers. Not far from *The Times* office, one offender almost came to blows with the policeman booking him — minimum fine 150 francs (£15). He was adamant that there had been no advance warning about this insufferable regulation.

In fact, Paris has been plastered with posters announcing its intro-

duction I'm going to spend my life in first gear?" demanded the driver of a Porsche caught speeding near the Arc de Triomphe (minimum penalty 1,300 francs).

Although the police chief has promised "implacable" application of the latest measures, doubts persist. The concept of good citizenship is not deeply rooted in the average Parisian soul. Drivers still stamp on the gas whenever the traffic clears momentarily, and still menace pedestrians with rubber-burning getaways at the lights. More people are now being killed on foot in Paris than in cars.

As for seat belts in the back, the fine is levied not on drivers but on the offending passenger (traffic included).



Railway wreckage: firemen spraying foam over a derailed freight train in the Loire valley, about 30 miles south of Lyons. Petrol in some of the train's 22 wagons fuelled the blaze, which raged out of control for eight hours, destroying four homes. There were no casualties

Danes to vote on EC reform

From CHRISTOPHER FOLLET IN COPENHAGEN

WITH a general election due a week from today, Denmark's political parties have broadly agreed to hold a national referendum in the first half of 1992 on European Community plans for social, economic and political integration.

Shortly before losing the Conservative leadership contest, Margaret Thatcher called for a referendum in Britain to decide whether it would abandon the pound in favour of a single European currency, a key element in the Delors plan for monetary union. The issue raised by the then prime minister was widely seen as unsuitable for a referendum.

Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, the Liberal foreign minister, said yesterday in an interview in *Borsen*, Denmark's leading financial daily newspaper, that the referendum would be needed because the election had been brought forward to next week, following the collapse of negotiations last month between the 30-month-old Conservative-Liberal government and the opposition Social Democrats on a state budget for 1991, and an economic reform package.

The interview also reported Ritt Bjerregaard, a former Social Democratic education minister and now the party's foreign policy spokeswoman, as agreeing with Mr Ellermann-Jensen on holding the referendum.

The timing of the election, which opinion polls forecast as being a close-run affair between the ruling centre-right groups and the opposition, will make it difficult for Denmark to decide on key European economic and monetary union issues at the two-day Rome summit, due to start next Friday.

The parties' agreement means parliament has the consensus it needs for the vote. Denmark has so far held two referendums on Europe. In 1972, two-thirds of Danes endorsed EC membership along with Britain and Ireland; and in 1986 they voted 56 per cent in favour of Luxembourg reforms designed to pave the way for the Single European Act.

Denmark, long one of the most lukewarm community members and second only to Britain in its scepticism about Europe, has recently undergone a sea change in its attitude. The breaching of the Berlin Wall concentrated Danish minds on Europe, reminding them of the danger of an all-powerful German neighbour and rekindling bitter memories of the loss of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia in 1864 and the Nazi occupation of 1940-5.

The change of attitude reflects economic realities, as well as a general consensus that EC institutions should be strengthened, to guarantee that the united Germany was firmly anchored in an integrated Europe.

Liberals give Kohl ultimatum

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

DESPITE his election triumph, Helmut Kohl will not be re-elected as chancellor if he refuses to adopt a plan by the liberal Free Democrats for making eastern Germany into a low-tax area. Count Otto Lambsdorff, the party leader, makes clear in an interview with *Bild*, published today.

The chancellor needs the support of the 79 FDG Bundestag members in order to command a majority with his Christian Democrats (CDU), and Count Otto started a first round of negotiations with Herr Kohl on forming a new coalition yesterday, determined to have his way.

If the FDP's tax plan, outlined in *Bild*, is to put a ceiling of 40 per cent on company tax in eastern Germany, compared with the top level of 65 per cent in the west. Individual income tax levels for anyone working in the east would also be reduced by between 20 and 25 per cent, whether or not they choose to actually live in the west. The tax relief would also apply to foreign com-

panies deciding to set up a business in eastern Germany. Herr Kohl derided this plan during the election as being no more than a leftover from the years that the FDP spent in government with the Social Democratic Party. "That's what they get from lying in the same bed as socialists for so long," he told election rallies.

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The tax idea also has the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and the FDP's dominant personality. In an interview with *Der Spiegel* he said that although his party was stronger than before, it was not necessarily seeking more ministries. What the FDP wanted was to introduce priorities for the speedy development of the east, including making it a low-tax area.

Herr Kohl had talks yes-

terday with Theo Waigel,

leader of the Christian So-

cial Union, the Bavarian sister

party of the CDU. The two

then met Count Otto for a first round of bargaining over min-

istries and coalition politics.

Figures released during the day helped to support the chancellor's election claim that it would be possible to mount a credible challenge to Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats in four years' time.

This came as a double blow

to the party, which needs strong leadership to hold it together after a third consecutive election defeat if it is to mount a credible challenge to Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats in four years' time.

The figures, covering the third quarter of the year, show the economy growing at 5.5 per cent, higher than at any time since 1976. At the same time unemployment in the west over the quarter was 122,000 less than in the same period last year. The main factor in this growth has been the enormous demand for consumer goods on July 1.

While Herr Kohl set about building a government for the next four years, the SPD was struggling to find a someone capable of leading them in the forlorn period of opposition ahead.

Its candidate in the election, Oskar Lafontaine, announced that he was determined to plunge back into local state politics in his native Saarland, and Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party chairman for the past four years, said he would definitely not be seeking re-election at the next party conference in May.

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Stick to the bare text

Bernard Richards

Many people have been perturbed to hear that that ITV is to screen a version of *Pride and Prejudice* showing Darcy in the nude. They are ruffled by the prospect of a novelist thought to be the laureates of polite tea-tables being treated like *Oh Calcutta!* There are good reasons for disapproving, but my objections are not based on moral principles; they are more theoretical and aesthetic.

The argument for nudity might be that there must have been nudity in the Regency, and that Austen was demonstrably not squeamish about sex. It has been claimed that with a little encouragement she could have been the Thomas Rowlandson of the literary world, giving full rein to sexual exuberance and rollicking energy. Within her published work there are enough fully-fledged guinea-pigs to stock a whole range of Rowlandson prints. Fanny Price's father, roistering with his Portsmouth cronies, certainly belongs to that world. In her letters, Austen shows herself the very opposite of the mealy-mouthed proto-Victorian spinster some readers admire. It might be good for her reputation if she were presented as a soul-sister of Jackie Collins.

Many of those who love Jane Austen speak of her novels as realistic. She evoked, it is claimed, the real world of her time, but did not need to detail it for her contemporaries. Modern adaptors need to flesh out that world and present it more explicitly for less well-informed audiences. Of course, film makers that world solidly present, so that cabinets, chairs, skirts, bonnets, pelisses and what-not continually jostle for attention with psychological action. Sometimes scripts are built around these props, and this is where gross faults of interpretation occur. Watching such adaptations, one feels that the novels are pretends for trips to the Disney-world of the past, where landlads sail through the streets and Sheraton and Hepplewhite furniture is brand new.

But there is a fatal flaw in this approach: Jane Austen is not a realistic novelist. Her novels are written according to an austere and highly artificial system. There is a chilly relentlessness in the way she writes, an unfailing stylistic discrimination. The principal endowed characters speak a formal and graceful abstract language which corresponds to the elegant discourse of the narrative voice. They do not belch or fart, they do not have sex, they do not eat, they do not drink and their clothes are laundered in heaven. Only the minor characters speak in raucous idioms and are trapped in the contingencies of the physical world. The last place one would go for documentary information about how the landed gentry spoke and behaved in the early 19th

The author is a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Sources close to the former prime minister tell me that Mr Bernard Ingham has been making his presence felt on the streets of Dulwich every bit as forcefully as in the corridors of Westminster. For the meticulous fixer has taken over the day-to-day running of Mrs Thatcher's retirement home with customary aplomb.

This news came to me through a series of leaked memos to the Dulwich milkmen which recently landed on my desk. "Three pints today, Mr Milko, please" ran the first, dated November 25. Straightforward, you might think, but the next memo, dated November 26 ran, "There is widespread concern being voiced by senior figures in the Dulwich household that the milk delivered yesterday (November 25) will go off in a matter of days. If dissatisfaction continues, Mr Milko may well find his job on the line. This memo is, of course, unattributable".

The very next day, *The Dulwich Echo* announced that Mr Milko had decided, with great regret, to tender his resignation. The full text ran: "Dear Mrs Thatcher, it is with great regret that I offer my resignation. I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of working alongside you for these past 24 hours, but I believe it is time to make room for someone younger. I am proud to have been involved in the tremendous achievement of the past 24 hours, and in particular to have played my part in the speedy delivery of three (3) pints yesterday morning."

Observers were quick to detect Ingham's influence. Only yesterday, Mr — now Lord — Milko started his short-awaited memoirs, *My Life in Dairy Products*. In the index under "M", I can reveal, is the entry "Milko, I successfully deliver three pints to Mrs Thatcher, 37-68". Pleased, Mrs Thatcher seems, 68-73; Questions raised, 73-89; Reputation suffers, 89-115; Resignation 116-128; Sulk, I decide to spend my time 128-210. See also Ingham, Bernard."

The story does not end there. On the 27th, the Dulwich news-

Norman Tebbit proposes a sweeping package of local government and educational reform

How Britain could love the poll tax

Everyone, it now seems, is committed to review, modify, reform or repeal the poll tax, its advocates having lost even the battle over its name. The aspiration is one thing. Finding a popular alternative is another. No one in his right mind would go back to the rates. As Mr Kinmonth once said in a rare moment of clarity, rates are "the most unjust of all taxes", taking most "from those who can least afford".

What is more, Scottish domestic revolution is the same league as the poll tax itself. Local income tax is an absurdity. If fixed at a uniform national rate, local government finance would simply be transferred to income tax and power from the town halls to Whitehall. If fixed locally, the appealing problems of collection at hundreds of different rates and redistribution from collection points to town halls would be an administrative nightmare. The central payroll computers of banks and other national chains with employees in almost every local authority area would blow fuses if confronted by such a task.

In short, even Mr Heseltine

deserves sympathy in dealing with the ghastly mess he has pulled off the cabinet table into his lap.

Short-term fixes designed to stem the electoral unpopularity inherent in asking local electors to pay for what they vote for should be delayed until the long-term answer to the problem is agreed. The concept is not difficult to devise, but to carry it through would require time, good management, political courage and presentational skills somewhat lacking in recent years.

The arguments that persuaded the government to adopt the community charge are as strong as ever. The concept of a charge to finance a modest proportion of local expenditure, paid by all local electors at the same rate in each authority, introduced at a modest level, but highly geared to ensure that increases in spending would require sharp increases in the charge is a good one. Nor is it unpopular. The dustmen of Westminster do not seem to complain much that they pay the same as the Duke of Westminster, since £195 a year for first-class services is seen as a bargain, especially with the grisly examples of Haringey, Lam-

beth and Camden for services that mock the meaning of the word.

However, such happy examples are too few. The government seriously underestimated the extent to which electors in two-tier authorities would be confused, and the extent to which most councils, of all political hues, would set out on a spending spree under the cover of the change-over from the rates. The poll-tax theory — that high spending would attract unpopularity — was right, but the government has incurred the odium, not the councils.

The best way forward is to get back to the original concept. That requires universal, single-tier authorities of reasonable size (no more vast metropolitan counties) so that local comparisons can be made, and a sharp reduction in the total expenditure to be financed locally. To avoid being caught again, the government would have to impose comprehensive capping of local government expenditure during the transition period.

All that can be achieved alongside a further step in educational reform. Virtually all schools should be taken out of political control and financed by central government

through fees for the number of pupils enrolled, bonuses for examination success and premium payments for disadvantaged pupils. Extra funding might come from charitable funds or commercial income (school buildings are too valuable to be closed for a third of the year); or from commercial borrowing against fee income or mortgages on new buildings.

Progressively, local education authorities would be abolished; this would not only offer real savings but would encourage office-bound ex-teachers to return to the classrooms. Schools would be free to prosper and grow or simply go out of business, with teachers paid on merit and for success.

A transfer of schools funding from the community charge to central taxation would severely limit the scope for income tax cuts in the short term, but cuts in the community charge would be equally popular, especially as these would reduce the retail price index, with consequent savings on indexed-linked benefits.

The abolition of local education authorities would leave the shire county and district councils with too few functions to justify the

existence of both. No doubt the Conservative local government establishment would fight rationalisation, but there would be no shortage of opportunity for good councillors in the new structure. Mr Heseltine is in favour of single-tier authorities and could no doubt overcome any resistance.

The package is an attractive one: a reform of local government to offer real savings by eliminating one function and one tier; an improved schools system combining customer choice and new opportunities for education providers; and a substantial cut in the poll tax. The main costs would be a delay in the next round of income tax cuts, the tumult of yet further local government reform, the short-term odium of ruthless capping of councils' expenditure, and diehard opposition from educationalists unwilling to relinquish well-paid jobs blocking parents' rights of choice.

At the end of it all, the poll tax would remain as the highly-gearred sanction against council profligacy. Like high interest rates, it would work. After all, it was the prime minister who said "if it isn't hurting it isn't working."

Was there a conspiracy? Alan Walters has circumstantial evidence but no proof

'Get Thatcher', and they did

Foreigners find the fall of Mrs Thatcher incomprehensible. Even her political enemies recognise that she is in the pantheon of the great leaders of the century. She insisted on honesty, in her final days translating the gobbledegook of the EC's Rome summit meeting into plain English. The Delors plan for monetary union, she said, was "federalism by the back door".

This proved too much for Sir Geoffrey Howe; the hollow superficial nonsense he regularly served up on Europe was exposed, and he resigned. This was not the first blow of Mrs Thatcher's political assassination, but it proved to be the fatal one.

Already the myths propagated by Sir Geoffrey, Nigel Lawson et al are being fed to the "quality" press. They are anxious to show how unreasonable, intransigent and downright wrong Mrs Thatcher was about Europe. At the height of the leadership crisis, the *Financial Times*, in articles by the political editor, Philip Stephens (November 14, 1990), and *The Economist* (November 24) told how on the eve of the Madrid conference in June 1989, after a tremendous row, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson persuaded Mrs Thatcher to accept the so-called Madrid conditions for entering the exchange-rate mechanism. Mr Stephens said both Mr Lawson and Sir Geoffrey threatened to resign unless she accepted them.

I find this odd. It was at least three days before the meeting that I put into final form a memorandum setting out the so-called Madrid conditions. (In summary they were: a reduction of inflation in Britain to near the average of the ERM members; elimination of overt exchange controls; substantial reduction of covert exchange controls such as undue currency restrictions on portfolios, and the creation of a barrier-free market.)

I am certain that before putting forward my memorandum, I had discussed the conditions with officials at both Number Ten and the Treasury. It seemed to me that those enthusiastic about entering the ERM forthwith (Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson *inter alia*) and those who were reluctant (Mrs Thatcher and other prominent Conservatives) could agree to settle on these conditions. I believed that Mrs Thatcher could

present these as the basis of a consensus, and that she accepted them as such.

Obviously it was important to go to the Madrid summit with a proposal that the prime minister, the foreign secretary and the Chancellor (although he did not attend) could all fully support. Of course I was not present at the Howe-Lawson meeting with Mrs Thatcher, so I do not know what occurred there, but I do know that the compromise of the Madrid conditions came from Mrs Thatcher, and not after threats of resignation "imposed" upon her by the Howe-Lawson axis. Indeed my impression was exactly the opposite.

The anxiety of Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson to claim credit for Madrid was undoubtedly due to the widespread perception that it was a great success for the prime minister. But even at the time, the Howe camp's feelings let it be known that the prime minister had caved in to pressure from Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson (see, for example, *The Independent* of June 27, 1989). Philip Stephens went much further with his detailed description in the article of November 14, 1990.

I do not know where he got his story from, but it is clearly a journalist who would rely only on a highly reputable source — which, in the circumstances, must surely mean Sir Geoffrey and/or Mr Lawson. Such misrepresentation

is by no means an isolated incident in the attempt to discredit Mrs Thatcher.

In October 1989, in the *Financial Times*, I was represented as having recently written an article which condemned the ERM as "half-baked". Sir Geoffrey (standing in for Mrs Thatcher, who was in Malaysia) and Nigel Lawson both knew that my article which included this description had been written 18 months before, and so was old hat in the Commons, however, both construed it as

From *The Independent* of June 15, 1989. "Only two lunches and no such talk," says Walters

though it were a current effusion. Since 1988 I had widely distributed copies of this article, which consisted mainly of a pointed autobiography, to the media, including the *Financial Times*.

How odd that these distinguished journalists should suddenly discover what they regarded as something scandalous in the closing paragraphs. Because of my



Walters (left): Howe resigned after exposure of his 'hollow, superficial nonsense' on Europe

not give interviews, and because the media were pressing me for biographical details, it seemed appropriate to respond by providing them with this autobiography (albeit stale).

The Independent had joined the leading in the summer with a front-page story by Messrs Torday and Bevin reporting that at boardroom lunches in the City I had been rebuffing the Chancellor's policy — with the clear implication that I had the prime minister's approval. Such innuendo, whatever its source, was typical of the many attempts to "get Thatcher". The two journalists did not of course reveal their sources. I can only recall two City lunches, at both of which I made it clear that I would not discuss current policy. The hosts agreed and there was no such talk.

The lunch I believe had the last

laugh in ensuring the succession of John Major (who is said to be a neo-Thatcherite)? Up to a point, yes. John Major is unlikely to depart from any of the basic reforms of Thatcherism. But he is not driven by basic ideas or by visions of the sort of political and social order which set the agenda for the great Thatcher reforms. He appears to be a decent, well-liked, supremely efficient executive — rather like Edward Heath at his most promising in the 1960s. How will he behave under pressure: like a corporatist Heath or a libertarian Thatcher? We do not know.

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A brush with the military

Fourteen weeks after his appointment as official artist of the Gulf crisis, John Keane has issued the Ministry of Defence with an ultimatum. Send him out soon or he will seek alternative sponsorship to take him there — the most obvious being a national newspaper.

Keane says from his Hackney studio that since his appointment three months ago, he has not received a single phone call or letter from the ministry. What particularly disturbs him is that since the announcement of his £10,000 commission in August, he has been turning away work in anticipation of travelling to the Middle East to join the multinational task force squaring up to Saddam Hussein.

"Whether there is a shooting war or not,



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

LIMITS TO SANCTIONS

Economic sanctions are among the weakest, possibly even the most counter-productive, of weapons. Reluctance to accept this uncomfortable reality is a growing obstacle to straight-thinking on the world's determination to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. In Washington, sanctions have long enjoyed near mystical significance, whether used against South Africa, the Soviet Union, Cuba or Iraq. Why is not clear — a naive belief in the supremacy of economics over politics or just America's intellectual isolationism — but time and again Washington overstates the efficacy of economic weapons to achieve global goals.

The case for economic sanctions against President Saddam Hussein was not that they would induce him to withdraw from Iraq but that, unless they were tried, nobody else would help America militarily. Now that American opinion is dividing, politicians there are turning back to sanctions as if they were an alternative to military action. They never were. Senator Sam Nunn wants to give sanctions a year to 18 months, on the ground that "once you cut off 98 per cent of the income of a country, eventually it's going to work". This was tried against Cuba and against Panama. It did not "work". Mr Nunn and his supporters are talking dangerous rubbish.

Faith in sanctions is rooted in the idea of confrontation as a kind of siege. Sieges of closed cities did sometimes "work", but only when the inhabitants starved. Iraq is not a city under siege and the world has no intention of letting it starve. Studies of sanctions tend to show they only have an impact over a long period of time, usually by gradually altering the internal political balance in favour of new economic groups. They benefit agriculture and import substitution industries. They make economies tough and lean and, as in the case of Iraq, they lead to sanctions-busting black markets in essential (notably military) supplies. Rhodesia and then South Africa are examples of this.

The advocates of sanctions against Iraq reply that never in modern history have sanctions been applied as thoroughly and speedily as they have been to Iraq. Its foreign assets have been frozen and its oil exports blocked, strict controls have been placed on air traffic to and from Baghdad and an unprecedentedly efficient naval blockade has been put in place. Life has indeed become tougher for Iraqis. Smuggling across Iraq's long land frontiers

with Iran, Turkey and Jordan (helped by the release of convicted smugglers to go about their patriotic duty) will not fully fill the gap.

The American secretary of state, James Baker, now says that he was advised that sanctions would force Iraq to withdraw within four months. Others thought they would act even faster. No attention was paid to Saddam's grip on his subjects, the nature of Iraq's economy and the fertility of its neglected soil — not to mention the loot of Kuwait's warehouses, enough food to feed two million people for six months. More than four months since Iraq's invasion the US defence secretary, Richard Cheney, has come to the realistic conclusion that Saddam "can ride them out".

Iraq is digging for victory. Where years of development aid and advice failed to make the "fertile crescent" bloom, sanctions are succeeding. Record acreage has been planted for the spring harvest. Free prices on the peasant markets have soared, giving farmers incentives to produce still more, while low-priced rations provide a basic diet. The eight-year war with Iran gave Iraq ample experience of putting the economy on a war footing. Sanctions have speeded up the transition. Current estimates are that Iraq's military still has enough fuel and spare parts to stay operational for a year without noticeably reducing training, exercises or air patrols.

Sanctions are certainly hurting: hurting the oil-consuming world. But the paradox of all "trade wars" is a tendency to backfire: this one is hurting more than 50 countries, 19 of which have approached the United Nations for assistance. The Polish and Hungarian economies have been crippled. A dozen countries, including poor Bangladesh, have lost a fifth of their foreign exchange earnings thanks to higher oil prices, lost trade or lost remittances from the Gulf.

The call of many American politicians for "military action in a year or two" is disingenuous. Action there must be soon, or not at all. The coalition-building which began in August has reached its peak. Half a million troops cannot sit out next summer in the Saudi desert. Saddam has given ample proof — in invading Kuwait — that force is the only pressure to which he is likely to submit. Sanctions may have been politically necessary. But the only way to free Kuwait is by the January deadline for force set by the UN last month.

KISS AND MAKE UP

John Major's first address as leader to his Conservative faithful yesterday urged reconciliation on a party still painfully divided. Much licking of wounds is being done in private, but in several constituencies individual MPs are in fear for their political lives.

Tory civil war is what Labour wants, Mr Major told them. He did not practise what he now preaches when he plunged the internece knife into the Welsh Office, delighting the Labour party. His dismissal of Michael Heseltine's henchman, the excellent junior minister, Ian Grist, in favour of one of his own, Nicholas Bennett, compares ill with the magnanimity Mr Major showed towards Mr Heseltine himself. While the dismissal of ministers and the deselection of MPs are quite different matters, Mr Grist's fate is hardly calculated to calm the party.

The most serious constituency threat is to Michael Mates, MP for East Hampshire, who was Mr Heseltine's campaign manager. He faces moves for his deselection and replacement by another candidate later this month. Julian Critchley of Aldershot, Cyril Townsend of Bexleyheath, Emma Nicholson of Devon West and Torridge and Sir Peter Tapsell of Lindsey East are among other MPs facing sharp criticism from their constituency parties.

There are better reasons than electoral profit why these MPs and their constituency associations should kiss and make up. Party rules give an annual opportunity for Tory MPs to reaffirm, or in this case not reaffirm, their choice of leader. Those Tories who do not like the rules should campaign for them to be changed, not for the ditching of those MPs who took advantage of them.

Challenging the sitting leader is a legitimate party activity, not a disloyal one — a loyal member will want the party to have the best

HEALTH CARE ON TRUST

The National Health Service is always said to be either "in crisis", as the Opposition maintains, or "entirely secure", as the prime minister said yesterday. Both attitudes encourage a belief that the issue is not quality of care, but whether the existing structure of the NHS is at risk. This assumes that the NHS is not dynamic, but static, an asset to be protected from a hard world outside. The assumption is false. Public demands on the NHS change, as do concepts of management. In response, the government has taken the mild step announced yesterday, of granting financial autonomy to 56 hospitals.

For patients, self-governing trusts should bring palpable benefits. Profitable hospital bring private wards or shopping facilities will be expanded to finance the capital borrowing which the new rules allow. That will in turn mean more modern facilities. Trusts will negotiate their own agreements with doctors, nurses and ancillary staff. Throughout the public sector, local pay bargaining need not work to the disadvantage of the staff, as the unions claim. In prosperous areas, it should mean that hospital boards will pay substantially more to recruit the calibre of personnel they need. Even in poorer parts of the country, self-governing hospitals should offer hard-working and ambitious employees more incentives. A competitive labour market inside the NHS must be good for staff as well as patients.

The refusal of the Opposition — Liberal Democrats as well as Labour — to accept the principles of local financial autonomy and competition within the NHS means that the long-term future of these hospitals is unclear. Robin Cook could, if he chose, direct his analytical powers to subjecting these 56 hospitals' plans to critical scrutiny, rather than making nonsensical promises to "bring these hospitals smartly back into the NHS".

Last month's changes at the ministry and at Downing Street have injected a new element of uncertainty. As he admitted to the Commons yesterday, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, wrote the passage in Douglas Hurd's manifesto proposing to review leadership unless he stamps

possible leader. A sitting MP is not a delegate of the committee of local Conservatives which selected him. His mandate comes from the electorate as a whole, and it is a mandate, as expressed in Edmund Burke's famous Bristol address, to use his own judgment in the interests of his constituency and the nation. That is an important constitutional principle, over which much blood has been spilt in the Labour party.

An MP has a duty to the senior members of his local party to hear them out. He also has a duty to his constituents of whatever political allegiance. He must conduct himself in the interests of his party, but also, as he sees it, in the interests of the nation. While technically the party cabal can deselect, that power is best used in cases of manifest unsuitability rather than specific disagreement.

Conservative constituency associations are given a conduit for their views on the leadership, separate from any influence over their own MP. Their voice is heard through soundings conducted by Central Office. Hounds of anti-Thatcher MPs would do well to remember that Mrs Thatcher withdrew from the fight not because she had been defeated in the first ballot but because she was told by members of the cabinet and others that she faced defeat by Mr Heseltine in the second.

The constituency parties had initially declared in her favour, then in favour of Mr Major. Their influence was an important element in stopping Mr Heseltine. The role of Mr Heseltine and his supporters was to oblige Mrs Thatcher to accept the verdict of parliamentary and party opinion on her continued leadership. This was a perfectly creditable role. Those involved served their party. None of them deserves the political gallows.

Aid for Soviet Union

From Dr Ian Richardson

Sir, There are serious problems to preoccupy politicians both here and in the Middle East. These are tending to obscure what may well be a catastrophe in eastern European countries and in Russia once winter strengthens its grip.

It will be obscene if some starving while others have immense quantities of unwanted food in store. European Community intervention stores are not going to feed these people in perpetuity, but they would help.

This surplus made readily available would give hope and enable the populations of Russia and eastern Europe who have suffered so much to endure their painful transitional period.

Yours faithfully,
IAN RICHARDSON,
Mullach-na-Beinne,
Lagan,
Newtonmore, Highland.

From Mr Robert Chambers

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Taggart (December 3), surprises me. Thousands of companies make donations to charity not only at Christmas but throughout the year, as do members of their staff through payroll giving and other schemes. They also send Christmas cards, and I am delighted to say that the volume of charity cards supplied by Britain's charities through this council continues to grow at a healthy rate.

Surely the main purpose of a Christmas card is to send personal Christmas greetings to business colleagues and so forth. If this friendly gesture helps charity at the same time, so much the better.

It is said that Sir Henry Cole invented the first Christmas card in 1843. The design (which may still be seen) depicted a family making merry in the centre of a triptych, while on either side poverty was being relieved and sickness tended. The message was clear: have a good time, have a prosperous new year, but always remember those less fortunate than yourself.

I trust that companies will continue their support by continuing the personal touch which only a Christmas card (and preferably a charity Christmas card) can provide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's 'inadequate' EMU policy

From Mr Peter Shore, MP for Bellfield Green and Stepney (Labour) and Lord Jay

allowed itself to be excluded from such developments.

What then is Labour's position? Is it that we will not join an economic and monetary union unless and until the conditions of "convergence" have been met? Or is it that if the EC adopts a monetary union and a single currency, Labour will then join, regardless of whether "convergence" has been achieved and in spite of the "unbearable strains" that would be created?

The tilt of the document strongly suggests the latter, not the former. But this is an ambiguity too important to be left unresolved.

What makes the document even more unsatisfactory is that there has been no prior consultation or debate within the Labour party on membership of EMU. This is all the more remarkable when one recalls that during the 1975 referendum, the Wilson government gave this assurance to the British people:

There was a threat to employment in Britain from the movement towards the Common Market towards an economic and monetary union. This could have forced us to accept fixed exchange rates of the pound, restricting industrial growth and so pinning jobs at risk. This threat has been removed.

Alas, this same threat is back with a vengeance. This is not a small dispute but one that bears directly upon the central objectives and prospects of success of the next Labour government.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SHORE,
DOUGLAS JAY,
Palace of Westminster, SW1.
December 3.

Changes at the top

From Mr N. D. Foster

Sir, Sir Richard Parsons (November 29), before writing that Mrs Thatcher over-dominated her cabinets and reduced our system to a de facto presidency, should have consulted the late Richard Crossman's 1963 introduction to *Bagehot's The English Constitution* (Fontana edition, page 51).

Here we read that even by 1867 the PM had "near-presidential powers" and that since then the powers have steadily increased. Mrs Thatcher can hardly be blamed for a 100-year process that was probably complete at least 30 years ago.

Crossman quotes with approval (page 52) Lord Home to the effect that no minister can make a really important move without consulting the PM, and as to initiatives by the latter, a minister has either to agree, argue it out in cabinet, or resign.

For the electorate there would be no democratic gain from a nostalgic "return to cabinet government" as imagined by Sir Richard. Ministers, not selected by us, are motivated to success and, if they fail us, sacked ruthlessly. (We the electorate can, if a government is perceived as failing, be relied upon to dispose of it likewise.)

Yours faithfully,
N. FOSTER,
Turzum Parkgate Road,
Neston, Cheshire.

From Mr B. A. Marshall

Sir, I wish to question the responsibilities of Mr Chris Patten as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. In what way can a seat on the cabinet be justified by his holding this position? More important, to what extent can a cabinet minister's salary be justified?

It seems to me that in effect Mr Patten's overriding responsibility as chairman of the Conservative party is overseeing the party's fight to win the next general election. Why therefore does the Conservative party not pay his salary? Why should we taxpayers pay to assist the Tory party win the next election?

Yours faithfully,
B. A. MARSHALL,
Sarum Cottage,
121 Clay Street,
Crockerton,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
November 30.

From Dr John Penman

Sir, Mrs Paviour (November 29) rightly proposes that no one should be allowed to lead a political party for more than two terms. This is far too good a principle to be limited to a few top jobs. It ought to be the accepted norm for chairmanships of all decision-making bodies, from parish councils upwards.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View, Upper Cratke,
Andover, Hampshire.
November 30.

Antares sinking

From Mr Christopher Orlebar

Sir, Yet another trawler has been pulled under by a submarine becoming entangled in its fishing nets. (Report, November 23). Would not an immediate solution be to fix a weak link in the line from the trawler to the net? Such a link would have a breaking strain less than the force required to pull the trawler under.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ORLEBAR,
Holt Cottage, Fairbrook Lane,
Oxshott, Surrey.

From Mr Peter Cobb

Sir, As a former nuclear submarine captain and a "perisher" teacher, I write in response to a report on the radio suggesting that a "perisher" (an officer on the commanding officer's qualifying

course) was in command of Antares and that this may have contributed to the accident.

The perisher course is generally regarded as one of the most testing and carefully controlled exercises run by the Royal Navy. Officers on this course are constantly supervised by the perisher teacher, an experienced submarine commanding officer. Throughout this exercise the submarine's appointed CO is ultimately responsible for the safety of the submarine.

There is no doubt that submarines are a very real hazard to fishermen, particularly in inshore waters, but it would be wrong to imply that this tragic accident was chiefly caused by an officer under training.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COBB,
Founders, Chobham, Surrey.

Channels for charity

From Mr Neville Bass

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Taggart (December 3), surprises me.

Thousands of companies make donations to charity not only at Christmas but throughout the year, as do members of their staff through payroll giving and other schemes.

They also send Christmas cards.

I am delighted to say that the volume of

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Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL BROADY, Director,

Charities Aid Foundation,

48 Pembury Road,

Torbridge, Kent.

Yours faithfully,

The man who has to make news with profit

The new chief executive of ITN surveys the challenges of maintaining standards in a commercial news service

BOB Phllis, the former managing director of Central Television and doyen of a growing class of "professional managing directors" in the media industry, enjoys a challenge.

He was widely touted as the man most likely to displace an existing ITV company with a bid for a Channel 3 licence in next year's franchise auction, but has chosen instead to skipper Independent Television News through uncharted commercial waters as its new chief executive.

Transforming ITN into a profit-making international news service, while maintaining its quality, seems an appropriate task for a "workaholic" and "news freak", who claims never to have had a career plan other than "avoiding boredom".

The task of attracting viewers who traditionally turn to the BBC at times of crisis will also be a priority after new ratings figures revealed that five million more viewers tuned to the BBC than to ITN for nightly news during the Tory leadership battle. ITN, which was first with the news of Mrs Thatcher's resignation and the candidacies of John Major and Douglas Hurd, plans to capitalise on its increasing ability to get there first.

But Mr Phllis says his biggest challenge will be to persuade the 15 ITV companies that it is in their best interest to "maximise ITN's value" by supporting it wholeheartedly in the lead-up to 1992, when, under the new Broadcasting Act, they must divest 51 per cent of their collective shareholding. "The ITN shareholders must see the need not just to maintain quality of the news, but to create shareholder value," he says.

ITN, forced to halve its night service and shed 36 staff as part of an effort to cut costs by 16 per cent, has been thrown into financial turmoil by the Broadcasting Act. Existing ITV companies, which have been hit by an advertising recession and need cash for the forthcoming auction of Channel 3 franchises, are worried about providing it

with more funds. A serious cash problem was averted in October, when ITN persuaded ITV to put up £7.8 million to see it through until the end of December, when it completes its move to purpose-built premises in Gray's Inn Road, London WC1. In August it went over budget by £250,000 covering the invasion of Kuwait. It had budgeted for £7 million in rental income from its new building, which cost £70-80 million, but has been unable to attract tenants.

Mr Phllis's first task when he takes over from Sir David Nicholas as chief executive next February will be to ensure that ITN's core news contract with ITV "fairly reflects the costs of high-quality news, while allowing ITN the flexibility of expanding into other profitable areas".

Mr Phllis, a non-executive

director of ITN between 1982 and 1987, when he was at Central, has visions of an ITN international news empire, spanning terrestrial television,

radio, news bulletins for London's Jazz FM and other stations, has already indicated its interest in bidding either for the new speech-based national commercial radio licence, or for a contract to provide the news bulletins on that and the other two music-based networks.

Mr Phllis is convinced ITN

will become profitable, although it is difficult to say when, and he feels it will have no problem attracting suitable investors. It is not a new problem for him. When he left his post as managing director of Independent Television Publications, which publishes *TV Times*, to join Central, he was immediately faced with the task of finding buyers for 49 per cent of the new company's shares. He is adamant, however, that new shareholders must be media groups.

Sir David, who continues as chairman, says several American companies have already shown interest. They are, however, restricted by EC law from individually holding more than 20 per cent.

He is committed to introducing an employee share ownership plan, which could account for as much as 10 per cent of ITN. Any ITV company which loses its franchise could also continue as a non-ITV shareholder.

Where this leaves Carlton Communications, the Zenith television producer and video duplication group planning an ITV bid, is unclear. Mr Phllis has been vitally involved in co-ordinating any Carlton bid, and will remain as group managing director until he joins ITN in February. "If Carlton wins a franchise, it will automatically be an ITN shareholder. If not, then it might be an ITN shareholder," he says.

The NSPCC ranks tenth in the league of the big fund-raisers. A complaint against one of its fund-raising advertisements was upheld by the ASA in 1988 for being too graphic in its detail about child abuse. The juxtaposition of the advertisement

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And you too, must be ready, because the Son of man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him. St Luke 12:40 GNB

BIRTHS

ABSEINTY LEELIE - On November 26th, 1990, to Candy and Sebastian, a daughter.

BLAYNEY - On December 4th, to Susan and Andrew Donald.

CROSSLAND - On December 1st, to Belinda, Julie, Yorkie, David and Guy, a daughter.

EALIN, London, a sister for Manash.

EVERETT - See Everett.

FLETCHER - On November 16th, to Philippa (née Ward) Florence, a daughter.

FREEMAN - On Monday December 3rd 1990, at Duxbury Mary Maternity Hospital, Newhaven, upon Tyne, to Julie, wife Chapman and Jennifer, a baby girl, Lucy Natasia.

GARRET - On November 30th, to Linda (née Garber) and Paul, a daughter, Sarah Victoria, a sister for Charlotte and Gemma.

HODGSON - On November 19th, to Carl (née Povindar) and Jason, a daughter.

MATTHEWS - On December 1st, to Anna and Eric, a son, Oliver, a brother for Sebastian.

LONGARD - On November 23rd, to Dianah (née Fletcher) John Charles, a son, Henry John Charles, a brother for Stephanie.

LUNDY - On December 2nd, to Trevor, to known as Peter and Geoffrey, a daughter, Victoria Margaret Danielle.

LUNDY - On December 1st, to June (née Lupton) and Peter, a daughter, Rachel Ann.

MULLENDER - On November 30th, 1990, to Linda (née Arria) and Michael, a daughter, Javier Francis, a brother for Carlito Alejandro.

NOTCHES - On December 2nd, to Helen (née Green) and Paul, a son, George Harry Steven, a brother for David.

PARKINSON - On December 2nd, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Helen (née Wylie) and David, a son, Samuel James.

PREDTICE - On November 27th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Mayfair, for son Captain and Thomas, a son, William, a brother for David.

PRESTON - On December 2nd, at the Portland Hospital, Camilla and David, a son, George Anthony Bennett, a daughter, Frederica Rose.

QUENO - On November 26th, to Katharine and Horacio, a daughter, Alicia Katharine, with thanks to the used at Harrow, Middlesex.

STANLEY - On December 1st, at home, to Celia (née Macleod) and Richard Stanley, a daughter, Alexandra Ruth, a sister to Maria. Always remembering Celia.

SWESELL - On November 26th, to Howard and Jeanne (née Norton) Swindall, a daughter, Philippa Clare, a son, William.

TESTER - On November 26th, in Sydney, Australia, to Claire and Gordon, a son, Angus William.

THOMAS - On December 1st, to Lucinda (née Frank) and George, a daughter, Laura.

WALKER - On December 1st, to Pauline and Michael, a son, Marjorie and Josephine, a son, Alexander Taylor Bellino.

WILKINSON - On November 30th, to Kate (née Weddon) and Alan, a son, Alan, a sister for Lucy.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

SHUTE-TANGYE - On December 5th 1950, in memory to deceased. Love from all the family.

DEATHS

BERRY - On December 1st, peacefully in Tunbridge Wells. Dorothy Margaret, aged 86, widow of Richard, beloved wife and loving aunt known to many for her love of and contribution to music and drama. Services Wednesday December 12th at 1.45 pm at St Paul's Parish Church, Tunbridge Wells. Burial at St. Martin's, Tunbridge Wells. Exhumation to E.H. Hickford & Son, 0892 22462.

BLUNELL - On December 3rd, Father Richard Blundell SJ, Father will take his last息 at Whitchurch Shared Heart Church at 12 noon, Wednesday December 12th.

BOURKE-SOBOROWSKA - On December 3rd, peacefully at home, Mrs Marna Helene, widow of Cecil and dearly loved man of her Greek, French and British families.

DEC 5

ON THIS DAY

1804

art of war; the subsequent interview with his mother, and the discovery of his birth; his pious sorrow when he learned the loss of his father, and the enthusiasm of his joy, when he clasped his surviving parent to his breast, were as affecting specimens of tragic pre-eminence, as the Theatre has ever produced.

In the scene in which he is goaded by the taunting observations of Glenalvon, the contending passions which struggled in his bosom were delineated with a force and truth of expression, that have rarely, perhaps never, exceeded. The high tone in which he reviled the sarcasm against his pride, and the proud imagination with which he rejected the proffered reconciliation with his insulted, had the influence of electricity upon the audience and drew forth continued and enthusiastic applause.

The last act, until the parting scene between Norval and Lady Randolph, afforded no opportunity for the display of those energies or strong sensibility, in the expression of which the excellence of this extraordinary boy, in our judgement, principally consists. The doubts and fears, the forebodings and reluctance, with which he severs himself from his parent, were portrayed with a feeling and discrimination irresistibly affecting.

But, perhaps the *chef d'œuvre* of the evening was the dying scene never, never did we perceive the feelings of the audience more deeply affected. The languor and simplicity of his tones touched every fibre of the heart, and his action and expression were in strict consonance with his mental and corporeal sufferings. His fictitious exit from life was not disgraced by any of those extravagant and convulsive throes, that the pretenders to theatre eminence so often employ; he died with the same gentleness that he lived, and breathed the words, "O! My mother," with a dying fall that thrilled through the deepest recesses of the soul. For energy and sensibility, for dignified ease and simplicity,

We are at a loss how to commence our account of Master BETTY's impersonation of *Norval*. The professional beauty of his performance, we could be under the necessity of quoting almost every word of what he said. The scene in

COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE

The irresistible attraction of Master BETTY's performance drew a crowded audience to this Theatre last night, as on any of the preceding evenings.

The tragedy of *Douglas* is one of the most pathetic and interesting on the stage. The plot of it, approaching almost to the unity and simplicity of the Greek drama, lays strong hold on the deepest emotions of the heart.

It may be said of the professional excellence of the British *Roxas* we call him so by anticipation little doubtless but he will one day establish his title to that proud distinction; his representation of *Young Norval* was so well played; we indeed, may almost say that we never saw it truly played until last night. It was not a laboured and mechanical exhibition of the art; every tone and gesture, and expression, went directly to the heart.

We are at a loss how to commence our account of Master BETTY's impersonation of *Norval*. If we were inclined to point out the particular beauties of his performance, we should be under the necessity of quoting almost every word of what he said. The scene in

BLACKWOOD - On December 3rd 1990, peacefully after a short illness. William Ernest Proctor, M.B.E., F.R.C.O., in the University of London. Much loved husband of Dorothy, father of John and Steven, grandfather of Emily and James. Cremation, family only. Service of Repose at St Luke's Church, Edgware Road, Sevenoaks on Saturday 1st December 1990, at 12 noon. Please no flowers. Donations if desired to Research Foundation of Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Mersey Hospital.

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The evening went with a hitch: partygoers Katie Ryder-Richardson and David Thompson tried to get home without driving, getting an expensive taxi, or rushing for the last train

Eat, drink and be ferried

Yesterday the transport department's annual Christmas drink-driving campaign got under way, including a television commercial deemed so disturbing that it can be shown only after 9pm. At the same time the government has announced plans for a bill next year increasing prison sentences and stipulating post-disqualification driving tests for those who hit both the bottle and the ignition key.

Statistics show that the advertising campaigns do hit home. Last year, the Home Office says, there were 1.4 per cent fewer positive breath test results over the Christmas period in England and Wales than in 1988, although 4,000 more drivers were tested. The growing penalties imposed on offenders also serve as a deterrent. Causing death by reckless driving now carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and at least two years' disqualification; drink-driving offences not involving a fatality carry up to six months in jail, automatic disqualification for one year, and a fine of up to £2,000.

Inspector John Bond, staff officer for Warwickshire constabulary, believes the various drink-driving campaigns are changing social habits. "About five years ago, drinking and driving was deemed acceptable, providing one wasn't caught. Now it is outlawed socially, and people disapprove openly of those who step out of line. The public still goes out to pubs but drinks less, and it's no longer wimpish to abstain or go for a low-alcohol order."

So why do we need the campaigns? "People's responsibility can slip at Christmas," Inspector Bond says. "There are more social activi-

ties, and one might have one too many at the office party before stopping for a top-up on the way home."

What is the effect of all this on the social life of the country? Cracking down on drink-driving has turned many a lively guest into a party pooper, according to Jean Wigzell, who caters for about three events a day over Christmas, besides hosting at least five for her friends in Cheshire. "People don't stay as late as they used to because their reduced alcohol intake dampens the atmosphere. Before the anti-drinking campaign started, they might have stayed until 1am. Now it's more like 11pm, particularly if conversation becomes strained. Guests also need more time to walk home in the country. And if they are getting a taxi, they want to do so before midnight, when fares go up."

London revellers are becoming equally temperate. Charlotte Bleakinsop, a PR who holds at least one dinner party a month, is amazed by the number of empty mineral water bottles the morning after. "I do find that I no longer encourage guests to have another drink. I'd also say that people tend to come out more for a chat at dinner parties than the booze. And we all seem to be more in control of our emotions."

Drinking at home has never seemed more appealing. According to Peter Dominic, the wine merchant, off-licence sales increased by 21 per cent between 1985 and 1988.

Those who do venture out, according to the Portman Group, the drink industry-sponsored organisation to combat alcohol misuse, are less likely to feel embarrassed about ordering an orange juice or low-alcohol drink (sales of which have increased sixfold in the past five years).

Age is no indication of responsibility, according to Dr John Rea, director of the Portman Group: "I have six grown-up children who systematically share the driving with their partners. None of us ever drinks and drives. But I have come across middle-aged couples who are far less responsible and reluctant to change the habits of a lifetime."

Country-dwellers have long since given up relying on public transport to make party-going easier. Madeleine Sunner, the rural transport adviser to the Hereford & Worcester community council, says her local transport operators are typical in their failure to put on extra buses: "They presume people will make

alternative arrangements. You might be able to catch a bus into town, but you're unlikely to find one for the late journey back."

Ms Sunner's acquaintances frequently hire minibuses from local voluntary organisations to take themselves to the nearest bright lights. Others form car-sharing schemes: "One person will offer not to drink at all for the evening, so he can drive all five others home."

When visiting her parents in Buckinghamshire, Katie Ryder-Richardson, aged 21, dusts down her old bike for night-time excursions. Even that requires caution, however: "A group of us ride together across fields, since you can be caught drunk in charge of a bicycle, if on the road," she says. If a pedal bike is unsuitable for glittering events further afield, Miss Ryder-Richardson will think twice about going, especially as her boyfriend has not got a car, "one becomes choicer about invitations," she says.

Some companies provide transport for their Christmas parties. Nancy and Neil Hughes spent last Saturday night at the video industry's Vision Ball, held at the Grosvenor House hotel in London, a 40-minute drive from their country home. "Fortunately, one of my suppliers sent a car to pick up ourselves and another couple en route," says Mrs Hughes, aged 28, a sales administration manager. "More and more firms are doing this. If we hadn't been given a car,

we would probably have taken the train up to London and got a cab back, which would have cost £40."

If taxis are too expensive or unavailable, somebody must be persuaded to stick to mineral water. Failure to agree on this can indicate cracks in a relationship, according to Zelda West-Meads, a counsellor and spokesman for Relate, which sees a 25 per cent to 50 per cent increase in clients after Christmas. "If a couple fail to discuss who will drive and who will drink before the event, it could mean they don't discuss other aspects of their relationship sufficiently."

She says another common argument is that a husband may have agreed not to drink too much in order to drive home. "The wife, at the end of the evening, might feel he's had too much. If he disagrees, and if his partner has been drinking (as agreed), there can be a problem. It really boils down to whether you'd let your loved one down and break a commitment. Many men feel it's a test of their control – especially in front of male friends – to insist on carrying on driving even if they shouldn't."

Meanwhile, the topic of how to mould one's social life around the law continues to be a dinner-table staple. In the cities, at any rate, help is at hand. Foster's, the brewer, is spreading a little post-Christmas cheer by sponsoring free New Year's Eve travel on London Transport buses and trains from 11.45pm to 5am – tube trains will run half an hour later than usual, and there will be 225 extra all-night buses. Perhaps next year, more drink companies will follow suit.

Soccer can be a dicey game

Terry Venables offers everyone a chance to share in the trials of the football manager's dugout

Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, may have the best of games this Christmas. Not on the football field, necessarily, but around the family table. With Paul Riviere, his friend and partner, Mr Venables has devised, developed and marketed what is proving to be one of the most successful new board games in the shops. It is based on the treacherous ground he treads daily, the life of the professional football manager.

Sport being what it is (a perfectly serious business), Mr Venables has done a deal to ensure that he gets a good pitch at White Hart Lane. His game, *The Manager*, is promoted over the loudspeakers and in-house video before every match.

Depending on where you buy it, the game costs from £24.95 to £29.95, can be played by any number from two to six, and is designed not to appeal exclusively to football fans. To move the game along, as well as dice, there are 960 questions on football, show business and general knowledge. Then there are hazard cards, football players with varying transfer values, and provisions for auctions, penalty shoot-outs, and winning the championship title or the FA Cup. At the end, though, it is the manager with the most money who wins.

Finally he and Mr Riviere decided to play the high-risk card. They raised £400,000 of their own money to market the game on their own. That was enough to manufacture, box and package the first 50,000 sets. The pair, trading as Glenhope Management, have sold half that number since the end of August.

The Princess of Wales has been presented with a set. Harrods says *The Manager* is "the most exciting game since Trivial Pursuit". Hamleys and Selfridges report strong sales, and *The Manager* is doing well in Woolworth's and W.H. Smith. The game is now patented in other European countries, and may be translated into an American baseball version to be known as *The Coach*. The game's originators are confident they will break even next year.

ROBIN YOUNG



Game plan: Terry Venables (left) and partner Paul Riviere

'Many men feel it's a test of their control, especially in front of male friends, to insist on driving'

& BRIEFLY

Calling all ramblers

today at the Stationers Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, when lordships of the manor go under the hammer, together with their ancient rights to hold markets and fairs, to fish and to benefit from certain mineral excavations. According to Robert Smith, of the Manorial Society, most interest is likely to be shown in the Lordship of Bally in Bedfordshire (which carries little but the title). Others on offer, estimated from about £5,000 to more than £100,000, include the Lordship of Dagnall in Buckinghamshire, which includes the "historic right to be Master of the Queen's falcon", and the Barony of Lune in County Meath, Ireland, the highest ranking title on offer.

It's a cracker

TIFFANY, like many of its big competitors, will fill Christmas crackers with anything from a diamond ring to a sterling silver spirit level. Cracking gift ideas start from about £15 (for a solid silver bookmark).

In the field

DETAILS of the Field Studies Council's proposed courses for 1991 have just been published, beginning late this month with "Bird Study for New Year" and continuing with "Life on and around the Sea Shore", "Fungus Forays", "Nature Photography" and "Landscape Painting". Costs start at around £75 for a weekend. Further information can be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Field Studies Council, Central Services, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY14 1HW (0743 850674).

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Will Pinocchio win by a nose?

There was a time when Christmas Day television meant persuading the children to put their toys down and stay quiet long enough to allow the grown-ups to watch the Queen's broadcast. And after that, the set was switched off, allowing the typical nuclear family to return to its games, its squabbles and its drinks cabinet.

Then, on December 25, 1986, the seemingly impossible happened. For the first and only time in British television history a single programme – the second part of a special episode of *EastEnders* – achieved an officially estimated audience of more than 30 million.

The trend had been developing for some years, of course, but if anyone within the BBC or ITV had any lingering doubts, they were dispelled that day. The Lord's birthday had become not only a television festival but also the centre of the most fiercely contested ratings battle of the year. And when the BBC comes out of its corner at 11.30am tomorrow with its final list of programme timings it will once again bring to an end an annual war of rumour, counter-rumour and Machiavellian skulduggery.

Last year, for example, the *Radio Times* received two separate schedules for BBC1 on Christmas Day. At the last moment before the magazine's listing pages went to press, it received the terse message: "Go with schedule B." The two schedules were almost identical, except for one vital difference – the transmission time for the film, *Crocodile Dundee*.

If Pat Southam, the head of transmission planning for BBC1, needed justification for such duplicity she can point to the outcome. When the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board (Barb) came out with its figures at the end of the week, *Crocodile Dundee* had become the BBC's most successful film of all time, with an audience of almost 22 million, narrowly failing to overtake the ITV quartet of *Jaws* and three James Bond films, *Live and Let Die*, *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Diamonds Are Forever*. The cloak of secrecy

As the BBC and ITV prepare for their Christmas race, William Greaves studies form



ITV double act: Ken Dodd and Pinocchio

which had been flung over the precise transmission time had clearly prevented ITV from coming up with any response. James Bond would doubtless have approved.

At other times of the year, the rival channels have a tactical choice. Faced with a programme of mighty audience potential, they can either "block" it by showing a comparably high-rated offering at the same time, or elect to "sacrifice" a more esoteric item so as not to diminish the impact of their own blockbuster earlier or later in the evening. But over the Christmas period, when neither of the big two networks dares to lose an audience which it may have difficulty in regaining, the sacrifice option is too dangerous to consider. It was surely no coincidence that on the same day and on the same channel as *Crocodile Dundee* last year, *Only Fools and Horses* clocked up an audience of more

than 20 million, making it the fifteenth most popular programme of the Eighties, according to Barb. The one had undoubtedly helped the other.

This year a new series of *Only Fools and Horses* gets under way with a Christmas special, and the BBC is also known to have captured the film *ET* for its first television airing. It is widely assumed that both will be shown on Christmas Day, but their transmission times will not be revealed until tomorrow.

Meanwhile, ITV launched its rival package yesterday, proudly revealing Ken Dodd's first television spectacular for eight years, *Ken Dodd at the London Palladium*, and the television premiere of the Oscar-winning film, *My Left Foot*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis. In a broad-based raid on the big screen, the channel also throws into the arena the first appearance on television of Walt Disney's *Pinocchio*, as well as Eddie Murphy in *Beverly Hills Cop II* and Patrick Swayze in *Dirty Dancing*.

Unashamedly adopting the language of conflict, ITV promised that its £35 million Christmas schedule "will vie for the viewers' loyalties with special editions of many

popular entertainment shows and a prime selection of top-class movies". As well as Dodd and its three top films, its list of names includes Michael Aspel, Rowan Atkinson, Michael Barrymore (with a Christmas version of *Strike It Lucky*), Cilla Black, Honor Blackman, ice stars Tovill and Dean and George Cole in the first of a new LWT comedy series, written by Yes Minister author Jonathan Lynn.

A former BBC planning executive, who has also worked for ITV, explains the corporation's critical 48-hour advantage in the war of nerves. "The BBC can wait right up to the *Radio Times'* latest print time before showing its hand," he says, "but ITV is under heavy pressure from the advertisers who want the maximum advance notice of high-audience slots."

"The reason why both sides

have to keep their schedules close

to their chests is because, at Christmas time, there are no fixed points to start from. Usually the BBC, for instance, would know when it is going to be up against *Coronation Street* and would respond accordingly – but at Christmas there are no such rules."

Although the independent networks are under greater pressure to produce viewing figures which will satisfy their advertisers – and justify peak prices – there is no doubt that the BBC is equally



Running again: Del and Rodney take up the challenge for the BBC with *Only Fools and Horses*

determined to win the battle. Its schedules are never committed to a piece of paper in case such a document should fall into the wrong hands and Roger Mackay, the overall head of transmission planning, admits to "an element of competitiveness" in last-minute adjustments.

"We are a public service and people who pay the licence fee are entitled to a full value and range," he says. "But we also have to wait to see exactly how long some of

our programmes prove to be. If they are a few minutes shorter or longer than expected, then this can also result in small adjustments."

So when do he and his lieutenants, Ms Southam at BBC1 and Tom Wymer, her opposite number at BBC2, first get wind of ITV's intentions? "We always look forward to reading *TV Times* as soon as it comes out," he says, without quite managing to make it sound convincing.

MEDIA WATCH

Tears for the turtles

SMILES of delight on children's faces when they unwrap Christmas videos of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *The Little Mermaid* bought by their parents in the United States may turn to tears when the VCR is turned on and all they see are scrambled lines. American VHS recordings, made on the NTSC standard, are not compatible with British VHS recorders, which use PAL. Although the Copyright Act allows videos to be imported for personal use, the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), set up by the American studios to combat video piracy, has warned that any attempts to copy American NTSC videos onto the UK standard amount to theft. Campaign Against Turtles Copyright Hear (Catch), a new consumer group, plans to campaign for a change in the law to allow one-off format transfers to be licensed.

Addition to the listings

TV TIMES and *Radio Times* will face competition next March from a new national television listings magazine, *TV Plus*. To be launched by Hamfield Publications, *TV Plus* will be aimed at the ABC12+ family audience, says Andrew Walker, Hamfield's chief executive. *TV Plus* is the first of many magazine launches expected in the wake of the breakup of the television listings duopoly.

Price on popularity

A SUGGESTION by the Office of Fair Trading that prices paid for networked television programmes on ITV be linked to ratings and advertising revenue would limit the range and diversity of programmes shown, the Independent Television Commission has said. There is a danger that ITV companies would maximise their revenue by selling to the network only high-rated and low-cost programmes, such as *Blind Date* and *Coronation Street*. Documentaries and arts programmes, which bring in less advertising, would get less exposure. The OFT, empowered to ensure the new networking agreement is not "anti-competitive", says it has not come to any firm conclusions yet as it is on a "broadcasting learning curve".

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

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Can he prise open the cabinet? Tim Renton, the new arts minister, says he is under no illusions

EXHIBITIONS

Backroom boys' work makes the difference

Two new small-scale shows at the National Gallery of Scotland make for a welcome change of pace, as Andrew Gibbon Williams reports

Although Edinburgh University's academic prestige derives from its prowess in the sciences, it can also boast the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Art. Established in the 1870s, this is the oldest university department dedicated to the study of the history of art in Britain, established in 1870. But while students make good use of the old masters in the nearby National Gallery of Scotland, the private labours of the academic staff only occasionally bear fruit on its premises. Giulio Sanuto and the Italian Printmakers of the 16th Century is, therefore, a rare and highly desirable event.

Four years ago the gallery acquired one of two known impressions of Sanuto's engraving, "Apollo and Marsyas". The print is the most dramatic and important work by this obscure and little documented artist, and its acquisition prompted Michael Bury, the university's expert on the period, to embark upon some grueling research. He has identified and assembled Sanuto's extant oeuvre and written a monograph.

By any standards, "Apollo and Marsyas" is a fascinating work. Centre-stage, Apollo flays Marsyas

(no satyr in this version) like a banana for his presumption in challenging godly musicianship. The competition is in full sway on the right while on the left, mid-distance, Midas's barber discovers the ass's ears inflicted on the Phrygian king for making the judgement. The way the narrative is arranged, however, is less interesting from a historical perspective than the numerous quotes and borrowings a group of muses has strayed in from Raphael's "Parnassus", clumps of trees have been lifted from Titian, the general composition based on a Bronzino harpsichord cover.

These are the hallmarks of the archetypal mannerist, Sanuto, despite his Venetian birth and education, is a member of that bande à Michelangelo for whom ostentatious display of familiarity with the High Renaissance and technical brilliance are more important than original invention or, for that matter, than individual artistic personality.

To the modern eye accustomed

to slick 19th-century engravings, Sanuto's — like Dürer's — look stylised and crude, perhaps because he was aiming more at a diagrammatic record than verisimilitude (Giulio and his brother were at the forefront of the map and globe-making business). The great pictures of Titian, his major source, are robbed of all life by nervous, brittle drawing and emphatic hatching. Andromeda, for example, feminine and vulnerable in the famous Wallace Collection oil, becomes a vicious over-weight houri, care of Sanuto. And a major leap of the imagination is required to envisage Titian's lost original of "Tantalus" from Sanuto's bodybuilding fruit-gasper.

If this meagre remnant of his life's work is representative, Sanuto was a minor and uneven talent inclined towards the macabre. *Alien* was a horrifying invention, but Hollywood is yet to come up with anything so grotesque as Sanuto's "Monstrous Child"; tiny penis protruding from

forehead, cyclops-eye mid-face, he is the stuff of nightmares. In recent times, this small-scale, focused kind of show has done much to leave the permanent diet of old masters offered by the National Gallery. Running concurrently with Sanuto, yet another commemorates the centenary of Hospitalfield, an arts trust and residential college near Arbroath. Generations of Scottish art students have taken advantage of the annual summer schools held there but it is unlikely that many have appreciated its history.

Hospitalfield, a Victorian mansion built of red sandstone in a less elaborate baronial style than Scott's Abbotsford, replaced the monks' barn which the writer used as the model for the house of the antiquary in his eponymous novel. It is a monument to one of those uniquely Victorian, public-spirited philanthropists, Patrick Allan — the local boy made good who married Elizabeth Fraser, the

heiress to the then impoverished estate.

Unlike so many of the breed, however, Patrick Allan-Fraser was an artist himself, graduating from the Trustees Academy in Edinburgh, proceeding onto the obligatory sojourn in Rome during the 1830s, then trying to make a go of it back home. In London he became part of a now-forgotten artistic group called "The Clique". And it was from these friends — among them luminaries such as W.P. Frith and Augustus Egg — that he later commissioned pictures to bedeck the house.

Some provided unusual self-portraits. Frith flirts with an Italian girl, Egg portrays himself romantically as the garret-incarcerated poet. But the most accomplished, by John Phillip (a Scottish artist despite his nickname "Spaniard"), depicts one of the hazards of the Continental sketching trip: a peasant girl in Seville market giving him the "evil eye".

Sculpture and furniture supplement the pictures and these flesh out to some small extent Allan-Fraser's personality. Many of the anecdotal subjects, however, (the great man's own "Idle Housemaid" is a case in point) are

forceful and necessary reminders — now that High Victorian art has acquired kitch value — of the bathos of so much British painting after pre-Raphaelitism.



Flaying: from "Apollo and Marsyas", 1562, by Giulio Sanuto

• Giulio Sanuto and Italian Printmakers of the 16th Century (until Dec 16) and Hospitalfield (until Jan 13) at the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh (031-556 8921).

TELEVISION

Reunited or remaining split

THE reunification of Germany, as explored in a splendidly cynical Late Show (BBC 2) interview last night, of Wolf Biermann by Nigel Williams, is unlikely to find much of an echo in Korea. Earlier on the same channel, Brian Barron came up with an intriguing documentary for Assignment, contrasting the economic recovery of South Korea with the monolithic bankruptcy of the North at a time when the megalomaniac pyramids of Kim Il Sung stand empty because nobody can afford the glass for their windows.

Asked how long the present northern regime could survive after Kim Il Sung is replaced by his anthem-writing son, a Moscow observer reckoned anywhere from two hours to two years; but in the meantime the old man is still there, exerting his baleful Orwellian influence on the ultimate paranoid society. Meanwhile, across 150 miles of barbed wire, 40,000 American servicemen continue to prop up the security of the South. 40 years after the war that first took them to fight there.

Like Hong Kong, South Korea is the economic envy of its communist neighbours. But, for as long as Kim remains so powerful a god that an apparently amiable young woman can cheerfully admit to camera her murder, in his name, of 116 people aboard a South Korean jet, the chances are that there will be little political change. "Any other young person in North Korea would have been proud to do what I did," the perpetrator announced, over reconstructed film of an airliner having its insides torn out as bodies flew through the windows. Ideology still makes a powerful frontier.

As for Wolf Biermann, the rogue troubadour whose father died in Auschwitz defected from Hamburg to East Berlin in 1953. He was among the first to criticise a corrupt regime there, as a result of which he was duly exiled back to his homeland from his fatherland, and remains one of the great

more manic treks around the merely bizarre, led him this week to a series of local Bohemias, in the Isle of Wight, West Sussex and west London. Meades is finding his place halfway between James Lees-Milne and Nikolaus Pevsner, never better than when worrying about whether there are places in Bohemia called England, or why Little Red Riding Hood should have come from there: "Local girl makes good in sexual allegory."

More and more in this series the true star is Meades's producer, Russell England. When some interviewee is proving more than usually turgid, England has his presenter upstaging ostentatiously out of the back door, or trying desperately to escape over the garden wall from some unusually ghoulish example of Beijermania.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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When will we ever learn?

Oil supplies to the West have been disrupted with alarming frequency since Suez in '56.

Prices have spiralled and during the course of the current crisis the price of oil has doubled. Such volatility can have a knock-on effect on the price of gas as it did, for example, after the Iranian revolution in 1979.

But there is one major source of energy, nuclear power, whose cost is unlikely to be affected by events in the Middle East.

The raw material for Britain's nuclear fuel,

uranium, comes from countries such as Canada, Australia and the USA.

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PROFILE

Man at the controls of the money-go-round

Mellor, Lamont, Major... will their past experience of funding the arts make the task easier for Tim Renton, the new minister?

Mary Ann Sieghart asks him

Minister for the arts is a job beset with both perks and perils. Free tickets to any artistic event: hurrah! Constant complaints from the performers and producers when you get there: boo! No boring parliamentary minutiae: what a relief. So little chance to make a mark: what a frustration. "Apart from the challenge and the fun," admits Tim Renton, the new incumbent, "it's a cross to bear."

Even artistic expertise and enthusiasm is no guarantee of popularity. Richard Luce, self-proclaimed ignorant about the arts, was derided in his early years as minister, but achieved godlike status towards the end. Why? Because he came up with the cash. David Mellor may have had the largest CD collection in the history of politics, but until he wheeled a reasonable rise out of the Treasury, arts administrators were determined to withhold judgment on him.

Renton is under no illusions about the job. He knows that the public spending round is by far the most important component. He sees his trips around the country as primarily useful for "devilining", gathering evidence and ideas that will enable him to say to the chief secretary to the Treasury, come the autumn: "If we had another £20 million we could really achieve this, and it's not just going to go on administration."

What should be an advantage is that Mellor is now chief secretary to the Treasury. As minister for the arts, until last week, he argued for, and won, a rise larger than inflation in this year's round, though he bequeathed to his successor far smaller planned rises in the years ahead.

Mellor's new boss as Chan-

cellor, Norman Lamont, was chief secretary in the two fat years for the arts — 1989 and 1990 — in which government expenditure outpaced inflation. And his new boss, John Major, was then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is this ladder of sympathy that could prove just as useful to the arts as the minister himself.

Moreover, Renton is likely to be pretty immune to the constant cries of crisis from the arts lobby. "I'm never impressed by big lobbies," he claims. "You get subsidies for 'fat cats' who like opera ('an overweight Italian singing in his own language') or ballet ('a man prancing about in a pair of ladies' tights'). These people will not go away. But they are outnumbered by most of the parliamentary party, which used to be more or less indifferent about money for the arts.

arts can be an electoral issue. "There's always the 'opera-for-totiffs' element in the party," Renton admits. This is the group led by Terry Dicks. He attacks subsidies for "fat cats" who like opera ("an overweight Italian singing in his own language") or ballet ("a man prancing about in a pair of ladies' tights"). These people will not go away. But they are outnumbered by most of the parliamentary party, which used to be more or less indifferent about money for the arts.

any amount of polemic from directors of theatre companies.

On policy, Renton's first big decision will be over how much funding should be devolved from the Arts Council to the new regional arts boards. He is reluctant to commit himself before he has read himself into the job, but concedes: "It's in my nature to be a revolutionist, providing it does not lead to extra bureaucracy."

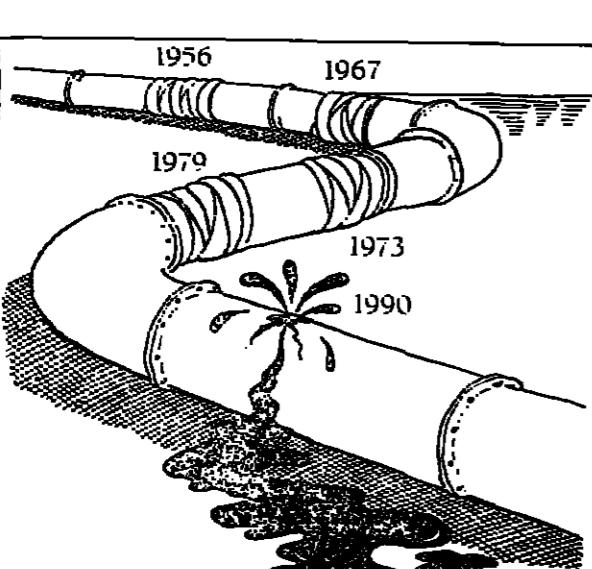
Mellor, by contrast, was suspected by many to be a natural centralist.

Despite losing his (non-voting) seat at cabinet as chief whip, Renton is enthusiastic about his new role. He accepts that minister for the arts is not big enough to be a cabinet job, though he thinks that bundling broadcasting and the press in with the arts could create a minister for culture and communications who would deserve a place at the cabinet table.

On artistic knowledge and experience, he lies somewhere between his two predecessors. He has visited art galleries since he was a teenager and has amassed quite a collection of British and Australian paintings and sculpture. He likes going to Glyndebourne and the English National Opera.

Perhaps most critically for those in the arts who want more money, he is a founding patron of New Sussex Opera. "It struggles and is always in financial difficulty," he says. But it manages to survive and has put on several large-scale opera productions at the Dome in Brighton.

Will Renton conclude from this involvement that the arts can just about manage? Or will his first-hand experience enable him to convince those on the ladder above him that the arts need more money after all? More likely it will be the latter.



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COURVOISIER.
And the evening began.

An epic to quicken the pulse

OPERA:
Les Troyens
Covent Garden

SCOTTISH Opera has hardly crept nose-deep into Covent Garden on this first brief visit. It takes ambition to bring a new work, Judith Weir's *The Vanishing Bridegroom*, on which Paul Grimes will report, and Bertrand's *Les Troyens*, all five and a half hours of it. Such courage was welcomed with just enthusiasm on the opening night.

Tim Albery's production of *Les Troyens* has been seen around the country under the auspices of the regional opera companies, but not so far in London. It has both worn and travelled well and it was no surprise that the Belcianians turned out in force for an opera that was once familiar at the Garden but is now a rarity.

They at times look rooted in the visual fashions of the mid-Eighties, with the Trojan horse and the Trojan treasure looking as though they had come from a child's toy box. But once across the Mediterranean to Carthage, Albery's production really takes off as with the aid of his lighting designer Peter Mumford, great washes of primary colour fill the stage. The sky is ultramarine, the sea glistens and finally a blood red covers all as Dido stabs herself and the belligerent Trojans set sail for Italy and a spot more killing.

Scottish Opera has come up with a pair of remarkable mezzos



Seppo Ruhonen as Aeneas and Kathryn Harries as Dido in Scottish Opera's *Les Troyens*

for Cassandra and Dido. Katherine Ciesinski uses her long arms and body like a Martha Graham dancer as the oracle of Troy, and her voice has all the melancholy of one whose fate it is to announce that bad times are just around the corner. Kathryn Harries's timbre as Dido is warmer and more voluptuous. It lost strength at the beginning of Act V, the point

where many Didos weaken, before recovering all its potency for the farewell to Carthage and to life.

Seppo Ruhonen's Aeneas is of rugged cut — he does after all behave as a cad for much of the time — and if he could not summon the lyricism for the love duet, then he made up for it with the force of his own goodbye to North Africa. There were one or two

weaknesses in a massive cast and two bright beacons of strength: Mark Curtis's Hylas and Patricia Bardoni's Anna.

John Mauceri was the musical architect of a stirring evening, urging on his forces and delighting as much in the military as in the romantic moods of Berlioz.

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Hindemith modelled the opera's central figure on the German Renaissance artist Matthias Grünewald and set the story during the Peasants' War of 1524. The painter's passive resistance to events beyond his easel struck a chord with Hindemith when he was composing the opera under Nazi rule between 1933 and 1935.

Far from being out of favour

with the regime, though, his staunch opposition to the atonality of composers such as Schoenberg assured him work. Hindemith's music was harmonic, a synthesis of the past and present that he hoped would pave a way to the future. Although the Nazis temporarily banned the opera this had more to do with artistic backstabbing than politics.

This omission is of little help in heightening the impact of the drama, already flagging at that point in Friedrich's production. It also seems a blind move at a time when the church is assuming a much greater significance for

the opera has never had a full staging in Britain; perhaps the time is becoming ripe.

ANDREW LUCRE

Mathis der Maler
Deutsche Oper

WHEN Berliners are trying to cope with the problems of unification in their city, the reasons for attending a theatre seem less than persuasive. Who needs art when uppermost in the mind is the search for an identity and financial security? The question is echoed in Paul Hindemith's opera *Mathis der Maler*, currently at the Deutsche Oper, where the peasant leader Hans Schwab jibes at the painter Mathis about the pointlessness of art in wartime.

As in his other full-length operas, *Cardillac* and *The Harmony of the World*, Hindemith explores in *Mathis* the dilemma of being an artist in a society where art seems powerless to stem social ills. Writing his own libretto,

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ANDREW LUCRE

DANCE:
Don Quixote
New Theatre, Hull

THE Moscow Classical Ballet's travels since Sadler's Wells have brought it this week to Hull, where the programmes in the attractively refurbished New Theatre have varied the solid diet of *Swan Lake* with two performances of a new production of *Don Quixote*.

British companies have too rarely tried this light-hearted alternative to the standard repertoire of old classics; only Ballet Rambert's year ago got it right. The Festival Ballet's attempt was unimaginative. Northern Ballet's more recent one perhaps too unimaginative. But Nureyev has shown (in Paris and elsewhere) that it can work.

The plot and choreography of the new staging are based on the Bolshoi's mishmash of Petipa and Gorsky, with additions by Goleizovsky and Zakharov, further revised for this company by their directors, Natalya Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilyev. They have blown the dust off the work but not really rehabilitated it.

They make two main changes. One is to introduce a couple of extra characters, looking like a

French maid and a frisky priest from a 19th-century farce, supposedly retainers of Don Quixote, who disguised themselves as a pantomime horse to play Rosinante and keep an eye on him during his travels. This does not exactly add to the clarity of an already confusing story.

The other major alteration is to give Kitri's silly, exuberant suitor Gamache (usually mimed role) an intermittent lumpy and a solo in each act. That explains the casting of Vladimir Malakhov, their young leading dancer, in the part, an opportunity which he seizes with an exuberant display of camp comedy.

The outstanding performance in the cast I saw was given by Igiz Galimullin as Basilio. He is the young man who almost managed to make the jester in *Swan Lake* a sympathetic character. Given a more amenable role, he fills it with a lively and robust manner.

Tatjana Pal's sure-fire pirouettes and *fouettés* came into their own in the last act, but elsewhere she makes a somewhat sulken Kitri. Vladimir Rylov conducts briskly an eccentric orchestration of the score, which supplements Minikus with a few seven other composers, and Peter Sykora's sets are a

versatile array of grey and white canvases that focused the dramatic action, allowing the opera its own magnificent voice.

Hindemith based his dramatic climax on the demonic "Temptation of St Anthony", by having each of the characters appear to divert him from his art. This is followed by a duet with St Paul in which Mathis realises he will serve both God and the people by returning to his canvas. However, Friedreich has chosen to cut both these scenes and instead follows Hindemith's directions only so far as having large reproductions of Grünewald's Isenheim altarpiece visible during the orchestral prelude to the final scene.

This omission is of little help in heightening the impact of the drama, already flagging at that point in Friedreich's production. It also seems a blind move at a time when the church is assuming a much greater significance for

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NEW RELEASES

THE BIG PICTURE (16): General satire on Hollywood moviemaking from two siblings of *Star Spangled Banner*, Christopher Guest and Michael McKean, with Kevin Bacon as a young director on a movie set. Director: Christopher Guest. Torness Court Road (071-366 2100).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (18): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, handsomely mounted, though the script is not always up to the standards of his earlier movies, with Connie Chiu and Dennis Hopper. Director: Alan Parker. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Robert Evans and Vanessa Redgrave, moaning and groaning, failing to make up to the standards of their performances. Director: Robert Evans. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

DRIFT (18): Alan Alda as a neurotic tycoon who wants to buy a company to convert success. Unseen, quirky thriller from Claude Chabrol, inspired by the pessimistic world of Paul Schrader. Director: Claude Chabrol. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

THE EXORCIST III (18): Unleashed, threefold sequel which tries to make up in gore what it lacks in shocks. Director: William Friedkin. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

FAR FROM HOME (18): Alan Alda as a neurotic tycoon who wants to buy a company to convert success. Unseen, quirky thriller from Claude Chabrol, inspired by the pessimistic world of Paul Schrader. Director: Claude Chabrol. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

FLATLINERS (18): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director: Tony Scott. Cannonball (071-366 2100).

LOVE HURTS (15): Funny infatuations over a wacky weekend. Comedy directed by Peter Fonda, with Jeff Daniels, Justin Grey, Amy Wright, Dennis Hopper and Dennis Hopper. Director: Peter Fonda. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

REPRESSED (18): A tale, silly spoof of the *Reverend* and *Curse of the Cat People*. Director: David Rabe. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel by Paul Bowles filled with a warning sexual secret to Benito Cereno, John Huston's remake of the *Peasant War* in North America, offering no moral corruption and nightmare. Director: John Huston. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

THE SPIDER WEB (18): A chilling novel by Paul Bowles filled with a warning sexual secret to Benito Cereno, John Huston's remake of the *Peasant War* in North America, offering no moral corruption and nightmare. Director: John Huston. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

THE TROJAN WOMAN (18): Alan Alda as a neurotic tycoon who wants to buy a company to convert success. Unseen, quirky thriller from Claude Chabrol, inspired by the pessimistic world of Paul Schrader. Director: Claude Chabrol. Curzon Soho (071-366 2100).

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BRIEFING

All's Wells in the end

TWO London theatres have been involved in an unusual juggling act that has seen the English Shakespeare Company pulling out of its month-long season at Sadler's Wells in February. With ticket sales for its productions of *Volpone* and *The Merchant of Venice* not going as well as hoped, the company has now transferred its season (February 4 to March 2) to the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, which has a more established theatre audience than the Wells. Consequently, the Islington venue can provide a London home for the touring production of *The King and I*, starring Susan Hampshire and the Japanese Kabuki actor, Koshiro Matsumoto IX, which should prove a bigger revenue earner for the cash-strapped Wells, where audiences prefer their drama with a song.

In memoriam

DAME Eva Turner, the great British dramatic soprano who died in June at the age of 98, is to be remembered in a service of thanksgiving for her life at Westminster Abbey on February 5, 1991. Sir Colin Davis, Dame Gwyneth Jones, the Royal Opera Chorus and Royal Opera House Orchestra are among those participating. Anybody wishing to attend should apply to Stuart Holmes, assistant receiver general (protocol), room 5, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA.



Eva Turner: Abbey service

North and south
THE National Museum of Science and Industry has acquired two paintings by the Victorian artist, George Earl, for the National Railway Collection housed at the National Railway Museum in York. The paintings, "Going North, King's Cross Station" and "Perth Station, going South", were purchased at a cost of £750,000. Director Dr Neil Cossons says "these are the most important railway paintings to have come on to the market in recent years." The paintings will be exhibited at the Science Museum in London before moving to York.

Last chance . . .

BERNARD Meninsky, one of the great generation of Anglo-Jewish artists born around 1890, has never commanded quite as much attention as Gerster or Bomberg. He was altogether a more retiring character, happy painting mothers and children, discreet nudes, landscapes and still-lifes. His brilliantly expressive draughtsmanship and vibrant sense of colour still remain compelling. A selection of his oil paintings at the Belgrave Gallery (071-930 0294), along with an exhibition of works on paper at Blond Fine Art (071-739 4383) remain until Friday.

CINEMA

The very devil of a part to play

Jeff Goldblum talks about his new film, *Mister Frost*, to Chris Peachment

Jeff Goldblum is an attractive devil. Playing the Prince of Darkness is all the rage among leading actors. Jack Nicholson put in his customary "horny little devil" for *The Witches of Eastwick*, and Robert De Niro gave a more sulphurous version in Alan Parker's *Angel Heart*. It is a fair bet that Goldblum watched both of these before undertaking his leading role as *Mister Frost*. His performance is not like either, but then it wouldn't be.

The film is a weird and not always happy French production, directed by Philip Seibon. It kicks off at Frost's home, which is supposed to be in England but the architecture of the house marks it down as French. In the garden there are at least 24 mutilated corpses. Alan Bates is the investigating policeman, convinced of Frost's cloven hooves. When Frost is later incarcerated in a French institute for the insane, various French actors wander in and out, speaking bad English.

Whatever the shortcomings of the film, however, it rests on the bedrock of a fine performance from Goldblum. The hold he exerts over his female shrift (Kathy Baker) proves that evil is more truly spiritual in its attractions than good.

The first question is about the Jewish line on the Devil. "I'm not a learned Jew," Goldblum says, "I'm a cultural Jew. So let's see." He muses awhile. "Well, there is the Dybbuk, will that do for you?" In fact he derived most of his research from *People of the Lie* by M. Scott Peck, a psychiatrist who aims to cure the human soul of evil by psychotherapy. A forlorn prospect, one would have

said. "My own evil is very frightening to me," Goldblum's wide-eyed insomnia, blundering around Los Angeles at night in the wake of adventures Michelle Pfeiffer. His professional gambler in the western *Silverado* sported a fancy broad waistcoat, a knife in his riding boot and an unforgettable self-introduction line: "My name is Calvin Stanhope... but my mother calls me Slick."

His performance is anything but banal; a mixture of physical appeal and a metaphysical appreciation for the finer paradoxes of his calling. The role is a departure for him. As a leading man, his screen persona can be stubborn, often reticent. He is a big man, at least 6ft 6in, with the shoulders of someone who works out. His identity on screen does not waver, but in an age of male stars who conquer opposition, Goldblum has the courage to be inept. John Landis owed much of the comedy of his

TED BATH



MUSIC

Hold on to your technique

Maria Ewing, the fiery opera singer and popular concert hall attraction, talks to Richard Morrison

At the first mention of the word, the corners of that famously extravagant mouth turn downwards in rebuke, and those magnificent brown eyes fling back this presumptuous challenge to their owner's professional integrity. The word is "crossover"—a slightly derogatory record-business label applied to such phenomena as opera singers who affect transparently fake Cockney accents and sing *My Fair Lady*.

"I don't like that term, and I don't think it accurately describes what I do," says Maria Ewing, opera singer latterly turned part-time purveyor of Gershwin, Porter and Kern. "These songs have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. This isn't me trying to do something outside of my experience."

Tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, "Maria Ewing: From This Moment On" rolls again, with the Royal Philharmonic and Richard Rodney Bennett in attendance. The show first hit London, via a sound-system of terrifying amplitude, at the 1989 Proms. "That was the right moment in my career and my life," says Ewing, and it is hard to disagree. The spectacle of the waif-like diva, covered in sequins and confiding to 5,000 people that she was "just a little lamb who's lost in a wood" was both totally incongruous and gloriously entertaining.

The first thing that her colleagues say about her is that Ewing's perfectionist streak is second to none. Nothing sickens her, she once remarked, more than "gifted people who are just damn lazy". If her performance at the Albert Hall last year sometimes seemed to send up the whole genre of opera singers going pop, that was undoubtedly her intention.

"No, this repertoire is not shallow compared with opera. It goes straight to the heart, believe me. It requires different technique—I would always use the microphone, not the projected voice I use in the opera house—but it is no less demanding. One battle is to find the right key so that the songs lie mostly on the level of the speaking voice. Then the words can be treated with great expressiveness. Also, the natural 'break' in the voice has to be overcome. To belt out a big number above that break, in the upper register, is just as difficult as having to place a very high passage in an operatic aria."

However, when Ewing refers to last summer as the "right moment" for her to sing these Broadway ballads, she is perhaps making a coded reference to the extraordinary rollercoaster ride which her life seemed to resemble in the previous 18 months.

First came the astonishing *Salomé* at Covent Garden, directed by her then husband, Sir Peter Hall. Of course, there was a succès de scandale element to that triumph brought about by Ewing's naked honesty at the climax of the Dance of the Seven Veils (the gold



Don't mention crossover: Maria Ewing is a "waif-like diva" with steely determination and a perfectionist streak second to none

The technique must always be there. If it is, you gain the tremendous freedom that can take a performance to the edge.'

lamé G-string was discarded on opening night because Ewing felt it was "vulgar"; which prompted surely the longest opera reviews ever published in the tabloid press).

But there is far more to Ewing's theatrical dissection of what she called "the dark, dark side of sex". Simon Rattle, when he conducted her, described her interpretation of Ravel as "easily the most X-rated *Shéhérazade* you can imagine". That was just in the concert hall. *Salomé* showed the totality of Ewing's talent; in voice, in demeanour and in body language, she was a deranged 16-year-old.

Characteristically, the perfectionist firmly rebuts charges that she went over the top playing that role. "No performance should be fixed and unchanging, that is true. But equally, there is no sense in singing wildly, 'We'll just throw ourselves into the roles; just live them'. At all times you have to know exactly what you are doing, and control how you do it. The technique must always be there. If it is, you gain the tremendous freedom that can take a performance to the edge."

That *Salomé* was in April 1988. Even as Ewing caressed the severed head, the opera world was buzzing with title-tattle of a rift between herself and Hall. Four months later, their six-year marriage—his third, her first—was officially pronounced dead. In the messy months after that, Ewing

must have directed some of her intense pride in giving a professional performance towards the task of maintaining admirable dignity in the face of some unpleasant media probing.

The following spring, she bounced back in the most public manner possible—singing the title-role to 5,000 people nightly in Harvey Goldsmith's mammoth *Carmen* at Earls Court. Not exactly the artistic high point of Ewing's career, perhaps ("the audience was so far away I didn't know they were there"). Yet the show did at least bring Ewing's smouldering, teasing, sulky Carmen to a wider audience than Glyndebourne admits.

Her childhood, in Detroit, was unexceptional; so was she. The origin of that steely determination probably lies in a sequence of events that happened when she was 18. She had won a local singing competition and a scholarship to music college. Then, a couple of days before her first important concert, her father (an engineer, with a mixture of Sioux, Scottish and Negro blood) died. "Your father would have been proud of you" could stand as the

motto of her subsequent career.

"I don't know how I ever got into this business. Some people have a great desire to be something I didn't. I didn't seek this; it came to me. But once it was there—this 'it'—I felt an enormous responsibility towards it." That much is obvious: before she sang the Covent Garden *Salomé*, for example, she ceased speaking for a fortnight.

Her striking looks undoubtedly played some part in her swift rise to international fame. When she made her British debut at Glyndebourne in 1978, singing Dorabella in Hall's production of *Cosi fan tutte*, *The Times* detected "an almost tomboyish pout on the lips". That pout—though hardly tomboyish for long—has become one of the most sought-after sights on the operatic stage.

Years ago, when asked to name the singer whose approach most resembled hers, Ewing chose Maria Callas. That was revealing. Still more revealing, perhaps, is the fact that, when asked the same question last week, she said that there was nobody at all. No woman singer turned 40 wants to think about Callas's final years, which

were a tragedy of burnt-out genius.

Ewing's vocal style, in which drama is incorporated into the vocal line to an extent that no other singer emulates, has certainly had its critics. Reviewing her Wigmore Hall recital in 1985, *The Times* said she "did for Schubert and Debussy what Peter O'Toole did for Macbeth".

Ewing, again, hotly defends herself against accusations that she bends the vocal line unacceptably. "I am very meticulous about line and pitch. I know few singers who are more so. But there's a hell of a lot of drama even in a song recital. If you are singing 22 songs in succession, you are telling 22 different stories. You can't just give pure, clean, vocal lines and nothing else, although of course we know there are singers who do exactly that. Perhaps that is why song recitals are a dying art, at least in America."

What of the future? Ewing has some surprising ambitions. "Wagner has been suggested. It's not inconceivable for me to sing even Brunnhilde." More immediately, there is her first Madam Butterfly. How on earth will she relate to that poor, oppressed creature?

Ewing considers the point deeply. "There's something very touching about her. And you know, the Japanese always have a lot more going on inside than they show on the face."

• Maria Ewing and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) tomorrow, 7.30pm

RECORDS: OPERA

A heady mixture

Donizetti: *L'elisir d'amore*. Battle/Pavarotti/Nucci/Dara, Metropolitan Opera Orch./Levine. DG 429 744-2. (2 CDs)

Donizetti: *Don Pasquale*. Hendricks/Cannone/Quilico/Bacquier. Lyons Opera Orch./Ferro. Erato 2292 45487-2. (2 CDs)

ONLY three years ago, DG issued a new *L'elisir d'amore*. But it turned out, under Gabriele Ferro, to be rather lacklustre Donizetti. So, with Luciano Pavarotti treating Donizetti's young farmer who comes into his inheritance at just the right time to win his girl as his favoured operatic role of the moment in the theatre, the temptation of a swift return to the studio was not to be resisted.

Pavarotti's Nemorino builds up on record as on stage to a show-stopping interpretation of "Una furtiva lagrima". This is glorious singing, without intrusive sobs or exaggeration. Earlier, especially in "Quanto e bella", the tone had sounded a bit too open and Pavarotti had not shown the agility of his Adina, Kathleen Battle, who responds with quicksilver reaction to every male around her. She eggs on Belcore (a properly swaggering Leo Nucci), flirts outrageously with Dulcamara (Enzo Dara showing as ever his comic polish) in the Act II barcarole before telling Nemorino in "Prendi l'ancor" that he is really the man for her. With James Levine controlling the Metropolitan Opera orchestra and chorus with the lightest of touches this *Elisir* makes a most disarming set.

Just as *Don Pasquale* runs second best to *Elisir* among Donizetti's comedies, so Erato's Lyons-based recording of the piece pales a bit before the high gloss of the Met. There are few complaints about the core of the casting, with Gabriel Bacquier in the title role. A few weeks ago he was enchanting Covent Garden as Rossini's Dr Bartolo; here he is as another crusty old man hoping to snare in marriage a girl young enough to be



Pavarotti playing Nemorino

his daughter, nay his granddaughter, Bacquier, in his mid-sixties, knows just how to deliver such parts. Gino Quilico, the Malatesta, is equally at home. But would that the rest of the performance went with the brio of their joint patter duet "Cheti, cheti". Barbara Hendricks and Luca Canonici sing sweetly enough as the two lovers. But Hendricks has a touch of hardness in her voice, while Canonici moves too swiftly off his high notes instead of letting them float as the best Ernestos do. Gabriel Ferro is adroit with the ensembles, but shows little sense of fun.

JOHN HIGGINS

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BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News
8.50 Daytime UK: 9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave, *Dish of the Day* Culinary tips with a Scottish favour 9.30 *People Today*, Ring Di Evans Jacobs on 061-814 0814 with your medical questions 10.00 News, regional news and weather
10.05 Children's BBC: *Playdays* (r) 10.25 Barney, Adventures with the animated dog (r) 10.35 *Peoples Today*. Includes *Open Air* with Tim Grundy 11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 *Kirkby*, Robert Kirkby-Salt hosts a discussion on young people who are forced to resort to begging 11.45 Before Noon, Alan Titchmarsh reveals today's *Brainwave* winner 12.00 News, regional news and weather
12.05 Happy Memories, Cliff Michelmore and Wendy Gibson invite viewers to recall their favourite moments 12.20 *Scene Today*, Live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, Weather
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceefax)
1.50 Going for Gold, European quiz show hosted by Henry Scott
2.15 Knot Landing: Survival of the Fittest, Drama, team and intrigue in a Californian cul-de-sac
3.05 Primetime, The pianist Russ Conway joins David Jacobs and Sheila McCannion

3.50 Children's BBC: *Animal Album*, A different animal each week. This week's guest is the comedian Don Maclean 4.05 *Quack Chat Show*, Keith Harris and Orville present the last in the present series. Cuddles meets the world's most gentle man 4.20 *Fantastic Man*, Cartoon about a space toddler 4.35 *Horizon*, Tony Hart meets a gnat and Marjol Wilson waits for a bus, (Ceefax) 5.00 *Newround* 5.10 *Dyker Grove*, Children's drama series set on *Tynedale* (Ceefax) 5.35 *Neighbours*, (Ceefax) (r), Northern Ireland: *Sportswide*, 4.40 *Inside Ulster* 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Anna Ford, Weather 6.30 Regional news magazines, Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*
7.00 *Wogan*, Terry's guests include Imelda Marcos, wife of the deposed Philippine president; actor George Baker and St Winifred's Choir 7.35 *Doozy Howser, MD*, Likeable American comedy about a teenage doctor, Doogie (Neil Patrick Harris) enters a game show for geniuses, (Ceefax)
8.00 *The Trials of Life*: Talking to Strangers, Sir David Attenborough continues his natural history of behaviour by investigating the art of communication in the animal kingdom. Armed with a small torch, he "talks" to flies in the suburbs of Washington DC, using a pair of headphones to pick up vibrations he taps a message to a mole rat, and in the Bahamas he swims with 60 spotted dolphins, (Ceefax)
8.55 *A Party Political Broadcast* by the Labour Party

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk, Regional news and weather 9.30 *Blackadder Goes Forth*, Continuing the bawdy manic first world war spoof. Unimpressed by the antics of flying ace Sqdn Cmdr Lord Flashheart (deliciously played by Pilk Mayall), Captain Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson) nevertheless applies to join the Royal Flying Corps in another attempt to escape the trenches. Shot down on his maiden flight, he finds himself behind enemy lines and sharing the same cell as Baron von Richtofen (Adrian Edmondson) (r), (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: *Raw 10.00 Sportsnight*, Steve Rider introduces a double bill of indoor football and cricket. The final night of the *Guinness Soccer Six* tournament is being played in Manchester. John Motson and Tony Gubba provide the commentary as the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday group winners are joined by Liverpool and Manchester United and the current title holders, Charlton Athletic. Plus news from England's faltering cricket tour of Australia 11.00 *Film*: *The Clean Machine* (1989). The Australian actor Steve Buscemi, best known in Britain for the BBC series *Call Me MISTER*, stars in a television film about a traffic cop who is unexpectedly chosen to head a new anti-corruption squad. Emulating Eliot Ness, he assembles a team of "unlouchables" to help him in his campaign, but runs up against powerful opposition. Competent action thriller, directed by Ken Cameron. Northern Ireland: *Blackadder Goes Forth*; 11.30-12.00 *Film '90* 12.50pm Weather

BBC 2

8.00am News
8.15 Westminster, A look at today's business in Parliament
9.00 *Sportz Crazy*, Unusual sports from Australia (r)
9.45 Film: *Dakota* (1945, b/w). John Wayne stars in a standard western as a gambler whose planned elopement to California with the daughter of a railroad tycoon is thwarted by his heartless bride, Vera Hubba Falston. Directed by Joseph Kane 11.00 After Hours, The actor Burt Reynolds guests on the American showbusiness magazine
11.20 *Town Portraits*, John Grundy visits South Shields, Tyne and Wear (r)
11.30 *Northwards*, Worthwick Castle in Northumberland is the setting for a re-enactment of border history (r)
12.00 *Mosaic: Crossroads*, the first of two films, looks at how misunderstandings can occur when people use different styles of English (r), and at 12.30 *Counselling and Advice across Cultures*, features communications skills development through advice centre interviews (r)
1.20 *The Adventures of Spot*, Cartoon (r)
1.25 *What's Inside?* introduced by Fiorella Benjamin (r)
1.35 *Country File*, John Craven reports on the Red Deer Commission's intention to cull an extra 50,000 hinds in Scotland this year (r)
2.00 News and weather, followed by *I Want To Be Normal Again*. Two sufferers of Parkinson's Disease tell how they volunteered for an experimental brain implant which could mean a cure for their illness (r)
3.00 News and weather, followed by *Westminster Live*, Coverage of today's Parliamentary business 3.30 News and weather. Regional news and weather
4.00 *Catchword*, Hosted by Paul Cole

4.30 Behind the Headlines, Beverly Anderson talks to the American poet Robert Bly, who is a leading member of a new movement for men, which participates in ritualistic initiation rites. Also, Nigel Warren-Green, chairman of the London Chamber Orchestra, explains why he believes classical music is reaching a wider audience
5.00 *Film* with Barry Norman, includes a review of Peter Bogdanovich's *Toscafile* (r)
5.30 *Nature*: *Frozen Assets*, Environmental issues facing Siberia, (Ceefax)
6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *To Short a Season*, a veteran Starfleet admiral arrives on the Enterprise to negotiate with a hostile planet. Starring Patrick Stewart, (Ceefax)
6.45 *It's Dance Energy Update*, Dance music, mixes and the new chart
Autobiography of the USA, American history 6.55 *Rough Guides to Careers*, In health and medicine 7.35 *Rapido*, With guests Paul McCartney and George Harrison. McCartney has just released a triple LP with a new video to mark the tenth anniversary of John Lennon's death, and Harrison shows off the cult band, the Traveling Wilburys
8.05 *Prisoners of Conscience*, Sir David Attenborough with the first of two portraits of people who have been imprisoned for their beliefs
8.10 *Bookmarks: Moscow to Pretoria*, © CHOICE: This is an early repeat of one of the most distinguished *Bookmark* offerings of the year which won an American Emmy award for outstanding arts documentary. The impact of Paul Pawlikowski's film, which could probably not have been made in the pre-glasnost era, was in opening up a little-explored underclass of Soviet society. His subject is Benedict (known as Sammy) Yerofeyev, a gifted writer who was expelled from Moscow
8.45 *Behind the Headlines* (r). Ends at 12.40

Gifted writer, Benedict Yerofeyev (8.10pm) university in the Fifties for refusing to attend military classes and was forced to spend the rest of his life as a down and out. With no papers and no fixed abode, he slept rough, travelled the country, found odd jobs and became a homeless drifter. The film vividly evokes Yerofeyev's journey from drinking dens to sobering-up unit and mental hospital, working in his frenzanch semi-autobiographical writings and an interview with the writer, his voice horribly distorted by throat cancer 9.00 *MTA'SH*, BJ (Mike Farrell) is not looking forward to his wedding anniversary (r)
9.25 *Die Kinder: Catastrophe Theory*, Part four of Paul Mihail's teasing political thriller, set in Britain and Germany. Sicome (Miranda Richardson) and Lomax (Frederic Forest) have tracked down Stefan (Hans Kremer), but the children have been taken hostage by the Red Liberation Front, (Ceefax)
10.25 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Labour Party
10.30 *Newsworld* with Peter Snow
11.15 *The Late Show* 11.55 Weather
12.00 *Prisoners of Conscience*, Sir David Attenborough with me second of tonight's two portraits
12.05 *Behind the Headlines* (r). Ends at 12.40

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *An Invitation to Remember* (Donald Sinden) 1.55-2.00 *Angels* News 12.00 *Marmalade* 12.30am *Si Si Si* 1.00 *Clock* Night 1.30 *Never Say Never* 3.15 Music in the Zoo 4.15 *Fifty Years On* 4.35-5.00 *Family Day*

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm *The Night Fellow*, *Medi-Vision* 1.50 *Sons and Daughters* 2.05-2.50 *Scottish Women* 2.25-3.55 *Coronation Street* 3.05-3.30 *Heads* 10.45 *Never Say Never* 3.15 Music in the Zoo 4.15 *Fifty Years On* 4.35-5.00 *Family Day*

HTV WEST As London except: 1.20pm *Simply Dell* 1.55-2.20 *The Young Doctors* 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 *North & South* 6.30-7.00 *Flight 2000* 7.30 *EastEnders* 7.55 *Supernatural* 8.00 *Blackadder Goes Forth* 8.50 *Just Jodie*

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six

TSW As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *The Price* 2.20-2.50 *Cover Story* 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 *Take the High Road* 7.00 *TSW Today* 6.30-7.00 *Blackadder* 7.30 *Heads* 1.50 *Supernatural* 8.00 *Blackadder Goes Forth* 8.50 *Just Jodie*

CENTRAL As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *Simply Delicious* 3.25-3.55 *Coronation Street* 5.05-5.30 *Heads* 10.45 *Never Say Never* 3.15 Music in the Zoo 4.15 *Fifty Years On* 4.35-5.00 *Family Day*

GRANADA As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *The Chef's Apprentice* 3.25-3.55 *Coronation Street* 6.30-7.00 *Granada Tonight* 10.45

ITV 1 1.30pm *Weather and News Headlines*
7.00 Morning Concert: *Smelana* (Overture), The Banquet Brde, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Levon Levinevich, *Tragedy* (The Moon Witch) SNO under Neeme Jarvi)
7.35 News

7.35 Morning Concert (contd): *Pansky-Kontrabass* (Czerny) *Espresso* (Mozart RSO under Vladimir Fedoseyev); *Tchaikovsky* (Lansky's arr., Eugene Orenstein; Nicolai Gedda, tenor, The Philharmonics under Alito General); *Concerto* (Symphony in C, Swiss Romande Orchestra under Charles Dutoit)

8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Week: *Saint-Saens* (Caprice No. 1, *Wedding Cake*, Op. 76; Jorge Federico Osorio, piano, *Requiem*); *Enrico* (Sinfonietta under Enrico Bozzi; *Venetions* on a Theme of Beethoven, Op. 35; Philippe Entremont and Gaby Casadesus, piano; *Concerto No. 3* in E flat, Op. 29; Pascal Rogé, LPO under Charles Dutoit)

9.35 Midweek Choice, Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel, *Arlequin*, *Strasse*, Op. 28; *Capriccio Symphonie*, Orchestra under Georg Solti); *Flute Quintet* in D, Op. 42; *Flute Piano Trios*, Karel Diousky, clarinet, Zdenek Tyrš, horn; *Hanek* (Sulis No. 5 in '1720'; Scott Ross, harpsichord); *Piano* (Poulenc, Op. 123, No. 3; Robert Irwin, damoiselle, Gerald Moore, piano); *Antifl* (Bach, Suite; Cambodge, *Syndal*, No. 50 under Antifl); *Requiem* and *Fugue* in D minor, Op. 135; Karl Gruber, organ; *Brahm* (Variations on a Theme of Papagen, Op. 26; Berlin RSO under Ferenc Fricsay)

11.50 *Invitation Concert: BBC Symphony Orchestra* under Lionel Friend with Tasmin Little, violin; *performed* Brahms (Tragö Overture), *Doris* (Vilmos Konrad); *Schonberg* (Chamber Symphony No 1)

1.00pm Half-Hour Susan Milan, flute, David Nolan, violin, Uko Inoue, viola, Marinas Feke, cello, Cary Thomas, harp perform Gary-Rozentz (Prelude magne et chanson); *Damase* (Intermission au *Travie* Chine)

01.30 *Film* *Death at Love House* 12.05am *Melodrama* 12.55 *Concerto* 1.50 *Supernatural* of Weeding 2.00 *Just Jodie*

TYNE TEES As London except: 1.20pm *Simply Dell* 1.55-2.20 *The Young Doctors* 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 *North & South* 6.30-7.00 *Flight 2000* 7.30 *EastEnders* 7.55 *Supernatural* 8.00 *Blackadder* 8.50 *Just Jodie*

TSW As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six

YORKSHIRE As London except: 1.20pm *Simply Dell* 1.55-2.20 *The Young Doctors* 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 *North & South* 6.30-7.00 *Flight 2000* 7.30 *EastEnders* 7.55 *Supernatural* 8.00 *Blackadder* 8.50 *Just Jodie*

TVS As London except: 1.20pm *Cover Story* 1.50-1.55 *Coronation Street* 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 4.00-4.30 *Home and Away* 5.00 *Clock* 5.30-5.45 *Heads* 6.00 *Blackadder* 6.30-6.45 *Just Jodie*

S4C 6.00am *The Art of Landscape* 6.30 *C4 Daily* 9.25 *Yesterdays* 12.00pm *In Search*

ITV 1 1.30pm *Weather and News Headlines*
7.00 Morning Concert: *Smelana* (Overture), The Banquet Brde, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Levon Levinevich, *Tragedy* (The Moon Witch) SNO under Neeme Jarvi)
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8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Week: *Saint-Saens* (Caprice No. 1, *Wedding Cake*, Op. 76; Jorge Federico Osorio, piano, *Requiem*); *Enrico* (Sinfonietta under Enrico Bozzi; *Venetions* on a Theme of Beethoven, Op. 35; Philippe Entremont and Gaby Casadesus, piano; *Concerto No. 3* in E flat, Op. 29; Pascal Rogé, LPO under Charles Dutoit)

9.35 Midweek Choice, Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel, *Arlequin*, *Strasse*, Op. 28; *Capriccio Symphonie*, Orchestra under Georg Solti); *Flute Quintet* in D, Op. 42; *Flute Piano Trios*, Karel Diousky, clarinet, Zdenek Tyrš, horn; *Hanek* (Sulis No. 5 in '1720'; Scott Ross, harpsichord); *Piano* (Poulenc, Op. 123, No. 3; Robert Irwin, damoiselle, Gerald Moore, piano); *Antifl* (Bach, Suite; Cambodge, *Syndal*, No. 50 under Antifl); *Requiem* and *Fugue* in D minor, Op. 135; Karl Gruber, organ; *Brahm* (Variations on a Theme of Papagen, Op. 26; Berlin RSO under Ferenc Fricsay)

11.50 *Invitation Concert: BBC Symphony Orchestra* under Lionel Friend with Tasmin Little, violin; *performed* Brahms (Tragö Overture), *Doris* (Vilmos Konrad); *Schonberg* (Chamber Symphony No 1)

1.00pm Half-Hour Susan Milan, flute, David Nolan, violin, Uko Inoue, viola, Marinas Feke, cello, Cary Thomas, harp perform Gary-Rozentz (Prelude magne et chanson); *Damase* (Intermission au *Travie* Chine)

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Brewers held back by non-core businesses

By MARTIN WALLER

THE aftermath of forays into the leisure market and further afield are featured in trading statements from three regional brewers, Eldridge, Pope & Co, Greene King and Mansfield Brewery.

The worst news came from Eldridge, Pope, which incurred an £8.08 million attributable loss in the year to September 29. Operating profits fell from £4.5 million to £22.000 after losses of £1.5 million from Realstream, a computer software company that is the subject of a police investigation.

Doubled interest charges left pre-tax losses of £2.4 million, against profits of £3.06 million last time. There are also a further £5.79 million of extraordinary losses from Realstream, which is to be sold, and a hotel that has been sold.

The final dividend, however, is maintained at 2.35p, making an unchanged total of 4.1p. Christopher Pope, the chairman, said diversification had distracted management and resulted in a year that was a "major setback". The A shares fell 7p to 95p.

The story was not as bleak

COMPANY BRIEFS

IN SHOPS (Int)

Pre-tax: £1.91m (£1.32m)

EPS: 3.74p (3.41p)

Div: 0.68p (0.5p)

LEEDS GROUP (Fin)

Pre-tax: £4.01m (£3.4m)

EPS: 25.2p (22.6p)

Div: 6.25p, mkg 9.25p

CHILTERN RADIO (Fin)

Pre-tax: £1.29m (£0.95m)

EPS: 14.3p (11.8p)

Div: 4.8p (4.0p)

COURTS (FURNISHERS)

Pre-tax: £3.65m (£3.12m)

EPS: 9.41p (7.95p)

Div: 1.83p (1.53p)

EVANS OF LEEDS (Int)

Pre-tax: £3.3m (£3.22m)

EPS: 3.35p (3.19p)

Div: 1.18p (1.125p)

ATKINS BROS (Int)

Pre-tax: £192,000

Div: 3.6p (3.6p)

at Greene King, the East Anglian brewer, which saw pre-tax profits rise from £9.41 million to £11.02 million in the six months to October 28 and is raising its dividend from 2.9p to 3.5p.

But shareholders are braced for further bad news from the group's Big R Leisure roller-skating, ice rinks and nightclubs offshoot, which went into administrative receivership in August.

The four main assets are for sale and the subject of offers, but even if these are successful the eventual write-off is likely to be about £12 million after interest on the venture is taken into account.

The third reporting company, Mansfield Brewery, raised pre-tax profits from £4.31 million to £4.53 million in the six months to September 29.

The dividend increase, from 3.4p to 3.6p, was held back by a poor performance from its non-core activities, a restaurant chain and a carpet cleaning franchise.

The company is to withdraw from these, but there is an extraordinary charge of £1.94 million to cover losses.

Colloids margins shrink

By PHILIP PANGALOS

INCREASED costs at Allied Colloids, the special chemicals group, restricted pre-tax profit growth to 1 per cent, from £19.2 million to £19.4 million in the six months to September 29. Gordon Senior, finance director, said margins had "slipped a little", from 18.6 per cent to 17.1 per cent.

Profits were held back by investment in logistical systems and costs associated with commissioning the company's new American plant.

Group sales were ahead 9 per cent to £113 million, with 82 per cent of the total going overseas. United Kingdom sales grew from £17 million to £19.8 million, while overseas sales increased from £86.3 million to £93.3 million.

The company expressed some caution on second-half prospects with regard to "the increasingly adverse international outlook".

Allied stressed, however, that current market indications still support the expectation of continuing growth in sales and profits in the second half. Earnings edged up to 4.63p (4.61p), while the interim dividend is raised to 0.8p (0.75p). Interest receipts declined from £864,000 to £611,000.

Building chiefs give jobs alert

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUILDING employers have given warning that at least 100,000 jobs could be lost in construction and have called for an early cut in interest rates to help alleviate the worst recession in the industry in living memory.

Sir Clifford Chetwood, president of the Building Employers' Confederation, painted a stark picture of further company bankruptcies, job losses and a looming training crisis.

Speaking at the confederation's annual dinner in London, Sir Clifford said the cause was "the worst recession of any I have experienced during a lifetime in the construction industry."

The depth and pace of the recession, which had hit construction in 1990 was on a scale no one could have predicted. He warned that to

the end of next year, the industry faced "job losses of at least 100,000, probably more", a dramatic fall in the number of new trainees, greater import penetration of domestic material supplies, more extensive European competition and a rising tide of UK company bankruptcies.

He said: "There is an inclination for us to look around central London, or the centres of other major cities, and take comfort from the vista of builders' cranes dominating the skyline. Enjoy it while you can. Pretty soon the cranes will be coming down all over Britain."

Sir Clifford called on the government to make a further cut in interest rates of at least two points - if possible before Christmas and certainly before next spring's Budget.

"We will be taking a positive role to establish what we have there and what we have to do to maintain operations."

Mr Stone said he expected to be in northern Cyprus for a couple of days, although his team would be staying longer.

The court injunction, which was imposed soon after Polly Peck was placed in administration, was lifted after the intervention of Asil Nadir, the chairman.

Mr Nadir assured the local citrus growers who had obtained the injunction that he would meet any losses they might incur in the wake of the injunction being lifted.

Elders director faces 37 charges in Rothwells case

Perth A DIRECTOR of Elders DKL has been arrested on 37 charges involving Rothwells, the failed financier.

Geoffrey Frederick Lord, former chief executive of Elders Resources NZP and still a director of Elders DKL and a director of Elders IXL, was remanded on bail until February 13, Western Australian state government investigators said.

Mr Lord is charged with criminal offences under the Companies Code relating to Elders Resources' purchase of about Aus\$20 million (£8.06 million) worth of shares in Paragon Resources, the gold miner. One alleges that Mr Lord conspired with others to fraudulently affect the price of Paragon shares between June and December 1987, the investigators said in a statement.

Mr Lord resigned from Elders Resources in August after Carter Holt Harvey, the New Zealand company, bought control from Elders DKL.

The charges were laid by the state government-appointed Rothwells task force and arise from a report into the collapse of Rothwells by Malcolm

(Reuters)



Remanded: Geoffrey Lord

Watchdog drafts new rule book

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has decided not to dispense with detailed rules after representations from members worried that this would lead to confusion and uncertainty.

Last week, Elders IXL shareholders voted to change the company's name to Foster's Brewing Group Ltd. An Australian stock exchange spokesman said the company would continue to be quoted as Elders until it was officially informed of the name change.

A new draft rule book greatly simplifies rules for prior agreements with customers and cuts the categories of customers from four to two: business and business. But business customers such as pension fund trustees can opt for the more formal private customer agreement and vice versa.

The new rules are couched in the form of a readable working manual with notes and guidance on compliance.

Rules on several subjects,

including soft commissions,

marketing of retail investment products,

cold-calling potential customers and treatment of client money are still subject to reviews being carried out by the Securities and Investments Board.

John Morgan, Imro's director general, said the new rules, though shorter, simpler and more flexible, would not water down protection for the private investor.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Esselte's main backer files for bankruptcy

MOBILIA, a Swedish investment company which owns a majority share in Esselte, the world's largest office equipment firm, has applied to the Stockholm district court to declare itself bankrupt. The highly leveraged company, owned by Gerhard and Peo Lindholm, was unable to pay its debts of Kr2.2 billion (£203 million).

The decline of Mobilia, which owns 37 per cent of Esselte, and has 44 per cent of the votes, came amid rising problems at Esselte, which announced last week a 71 per cent fall in profits for the nine-month period to September. This and the rising problems at Mobilia prompted the resignation of Gerhard Lindholm as chairman.

Serif Cowells in MBO talks

SHARES in Serif Cowells, the USM leisure and printing group, which makes the Trivial Pursuit board game, surged 17p to 43p after news that the company is in discussions that could lead to a management buyout (MBO). The management group, which hopes to offer 50p a share, has control of about 59.4 per cent of the company's equity.

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
 ● LAW 37
 ● SPORT 38-42

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5 1990

Electricity sell-off could be a record

The offer of shares in the 12 regional electricity distributors, which closes today, is almost certain to be oversubscribed, with cheques from the public worth more than the value of the shares on offer already received by the banks handling the issue.

By last night, the receiving banks had already processed 1.7 million applications from the public and the issue is now heading for a place in the record books if it outstrips the 4.5 million people who bought shares in British Gas.

The average sum invested is £500. The first instalment on the shares is worth £2.17 billion and, if private investors apply for more than 35 per cent of the issue, clawback provisions increase the public's share at the expense of the institutions, assuming an even spread of interest around the 12 companies.

The deadline for handing in completed application forms is 10am today at one of 21 special receiving centres, three of them in London.

Walker talks

George Walker, the embattled head of the Brent Walker Group, is facing problems in his talks with Standard Chartered, his principal bank on the issue of his replacement as chairman. Brent's shares fell 9p to 78p.

Mr Walker signalled his willingness to stand down, while retaining the chief executive role, this week but he is thought to be insisting on the right of veto over who becomes chairman.

Norcros cut

The Norcros building products group has cut its interim dividend from 5p to 3.5p on pre-tax profits down from £18.3 million to £9.8 million and earnings a share down from 8.3p to 4.4p.

Tempas, page 27

Siebe pays more

Siebe reports pre-tax profits of £85.3 million for the six months to the end of September (£80.8 million) and earnings a share up from 24.4p to 25.6p. The interim dividend is increased from 5p to 5.5p.

Tempas, page 27

German growth

The economy of West Germany grew by 5.5 per cent in the third quarter compared with the same period last year, its strongest quarterly advance since 1976.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9245 (+0.0040)
 German mark 2.8854 (-0.0046)
 Exchange index 93.6 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1681.6 (-13.7)
 FT-SE 100 2146.3 (-16.4)
 New York Dow Jones 2566.58 (-0.99)*
 Tokyo Nikkei Avge 21862.61 (-863.38)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
 3-month Interbank: 13% - 13.5%
 3-month eligible bills: 13-12.5%*
 US: Prime Rate: 10%
 Federal Funds: 7.5%*
 3-month Treasury Bills: 7.027-0.00%
 30-year bonds: 104.12-104.15%*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
 £: \$1.9245 £: \$1.9265
 DM: 2.8854 DM: 2.8840*
 SWF: 2.0000 SWF: 2.0040*
 Ff: 5.0520 Ff: 5.0520*
 Yen: 259.08 Yen: 254.00*
 £-Index: 93.6 £-Index: 93.3
 ECU: 70.706142 SDR: ED 737534
 ECU: 1416145 £: £DR: 1.355134

GOLD

London Fixing:
 AM: \$377.00 PM: \$377.80
 close: \$377.50-\$378.00 (£195.75-
 196.00)
 New York:
 Comex: \$379.15-\$379.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$30.00 bbl (£29.65)
 * Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.58 Bank Buys 2.41
 Austria Sch 21.95 Bank Sales 20.50
 Belgium Fr 2.25 Bank 2.21
 Denmark Kr 11.63 10.93
 Finland Mk 7.33 6.85
 France Fr 10.95 9.55
 Germany Dm 3.02 2.94
 Greece Dr 312 1.75
 Hong Kong \$ 15.55 14.75
 Ireland P 1.135 1.100
 Italy Lira 275.50 268.50
 Japan Yen 3.40 3.20
 Netherlands Gld 11.63 11.15
 Portugal Esc 26.50 24.80
 South Africa Rand 18.75 17.25
 Sweden Kr 11.23 10.65
 Switzerland Fr 2.59 2.50
 Turkey Lira 5.75 5.20
 USA \$ 2.01 1.91
 Yugoslavia Dmk 33.00 21.00

Rates for small denominations bank only
 * denotes latest trading price

Ofgas says British Gas must raise competition

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Gas will have to start releasing supplies to increase competition in the gas market significantly — otherwise its own future will be called into question.

This warning was given in a speech by James McKinnon, director-general of the office of gas supplies (Ofgas), the gas industry watchdog, in which for the first time he said the market share held by competitors of British Gas should be 30 per cent in three years. British Gas said it would begin

releasing supplies only when the circumstances to do so were right.

While Mr McKinnon's attack sets a new target on market share, it was the angry tone of his remarks to a conference in Birmingham that took British Gas officials by surprise, though the company insisted it did not mark any significant deterioration of relations between itself and Ofgas.

Speaking at the national energy management exhibition and conference, Mr McKinnon said that in its report on the gas industry in October 1988, the monopolies and mergers commission had set the

objective of effective competition in the gas industry by 1993.

As that "realistic first step" towards that, the competitive market share should be 30 per cent by October 1993. He said: "Ultimately the market composition should result in British Gas' share being substantially reduced so that technically it would cease to be a monopolist."

To achieve that, there would have to be a gradual build-up of established levels of competitive supplies, to "fully realistic" minimum targets of 400 million therms in 1991, double that the next year and 1.2 billion therms in 1993.

Ofgas says even that would represent only 10 per cent of the new supplies it believes will be coming through by the mid-Nineties.

But Mr McKinnon said the supplies would have to come from British Gas, because it was the only source of gas available in that time: "I am, therefore, calling on it to take immediate action to release the necessary supplies." British Gas had abundant supplies and only the mix of suppliers, not the overall size, of the market would change in that period.

Progress by British Gas towards the 1993 position outlined by

MMC had so far been "bleak". The company was holding up progress, and its claimed achievements had a "hollow sound". British Gas had been "in no rush to accept the challenge to develop a fully competitive market by the end of five years." British Gas seemed unable "to come to terms with the fact that its monopoly has come to an end", though after accusations from some gas customers that the company "abuses its power by introducing arbitrary price increases" the end of the monopoly could not come too soon for most. He said: "British Gas also fails to

recognise that it would be in its own interests as well as everyone else's if the MMC deadline of 1993 were to be met. The very future of British Gas will be called into question if this target is not achieved." The consequences for the company of its not achieving these competitive targets by this time "could be extremely severe".

British Gas said that by 1993 there would "undoubtedly" be a significant level of competition in the gas contract market, but it was "not appropriate" to talk in terms of engineering market shares. That had to be left to market forces.

GEC expects 6,000 more jobs will go

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company expects to shed 6,000 jobs in the second half after a 6,400 cut during the first half of the year to end-September.

Lord Weinstein, managing director, said the job losses were caused both by defence spending reductions and delays, and tightening economic conditions. "No one can look at the world economy today and be optimistic for the immediate future," he said.

The job losses are expected to take effect at GEC operating companies worldwide, by non-replacement and redundancy. Lord Weinstein estimated the cost at £14-£15 million for the year in addition to provisions already made. By next March the number of employees is to fall to 161,000.

Profits from the Plessey and Ferranti businesses acquired by GEC failed during the first half to make up for the loss of interest on the cash spent to acquire them. In spite of 14 per cent higher operating profits, a £54 million fall in interest income left GEC's group pre-tax profits 4 per cent lower at £342 million. GEC

achieved through mergers with GEC units.

Lord Prior, the chairman, is strengthening the GEC board with the appointment of Anthony O'Reilly, the executive president of HJ Heinz, as a non-executive director.

Orders rose by 36 per cent to £10.8 billion, due only partly to acquisitions. "I have no doubt that the policy of gaining access to new markets through partners is absolutely the right thing to have done," said Lord Weinstein.

Joint ventures, including GEC Alsthom, the transport and power engineering company equally owned with Compagnie Générale d'Électricité de France, and GPT, the telecoms partnership with Siemens of Germany, accounted for £4.8 billion of sales.

Spending on research and development increased by a third to £447 million. Lord Weinstein said that was partly a consequence of acquisitions, but R&D spending would climb as the technological sophistication of GEC's defence electronics business.

Power Systems, largely GEC Alsthom, the power engineering and railway rolling stock company, made £58 million.

Telecommunications, now dominated by the GPT joint venture with Siemens, made £53 million. It has won a contract with British Telecom for its System X exchanges which is potentially worth £1 billion.

Electronic systems accounted for almost one-third of operating profits during the first half. The division includes Matra Marconi Espace, a new joint venture, which includes much of GEC's defence electronics business.

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Capital spending continues to grow. Net of disposals, this year's total should easily pass last year's £244 million.

Steady as she goes: Bernard Henderson at Grahams Water, Cambridgeshire

Fed relaxes rules on bank reserves

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE US Federal Reserve Board has relaxed its bank reserve requirements in a move designed to boost the profitability of the fragile American banking system and relieve the squeeze on credit.

The Fed said its action would free \$13.6 billion worth of reserves held by American banks against certain categories of wholesale deposits.

The new regulation abolishes the 3 per cent reserves that American banks have to hold against corporate time deposits and net liabilities in the Euromarkets. This will free more funds for lending, enabling the banks to raise profits by earning interest on the extra lending.

Analysts on Wall Street said the regulations would save the American banking system about \$1 billion in pre-tax interest costs per year. Keefe Bruyette and Woods, the American broker that specialises in bank stocks, estimated that average bank earnings would rise by about 1½ per cent. Although the move would be welcomed by banks

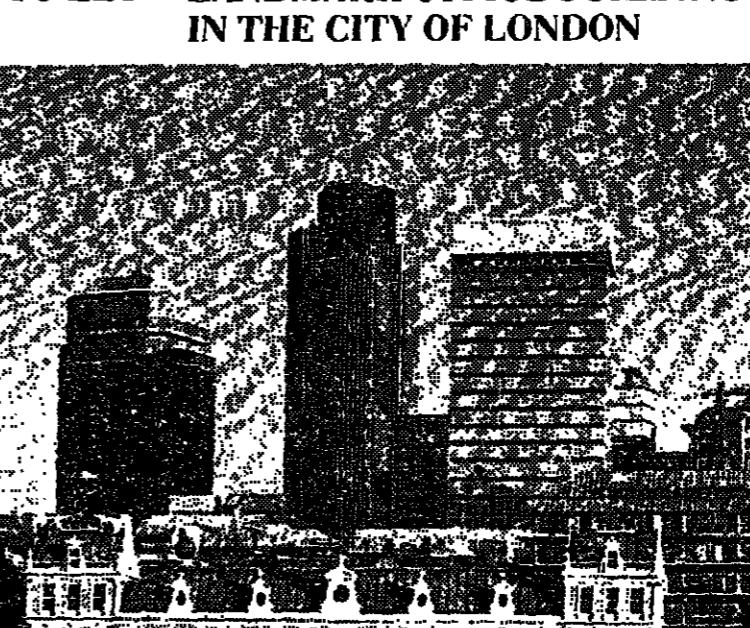
struggling with huge loan losses, it could be insufficient to have a material effect on any of the large American banks, several of which are believed to be incapable of survival in their present form.

The most significant aspect of the Fed's decision lay in its broader economic motivation. Yesterday's statement drew attention to the weakness of the American economy and indicated the central bank's concern.

The Fed said: "Commercial banks have been tightening their standards of creditworthiness and the terms and conditions for many types of loans. While much of this tightening has been welcome... it has in recent months begun to exert a contractionary influence on the economy."

Meanwhile, Michael Boskin, the chief economist at the White House, confirmed the American economy would decline in the current quarter. The news increased speculation that American interest rates would be cut again soon.

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Trafalgar shares up as profits fall

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Trafalgar House jumped 14p to 188p, as the engineering and shipping conglomerate reported property provisions in line with expectations and maintained its final dividend.

A £95 million writedown of the company's residential and commercial property activities reduced pre-tax profits in the year to end-September to £155.7 million, 42 per cent less than the £270 million made in 1989.

A big increase in the company's tax charge to 27 per cent, a direct result of

Paying the dividend will require a £25 million transfer from reserves.

Eric Parker, Trafalgar's chief executive, said the stamp in property profits had produced a more balanced spread of profits from the group's three divisions.

Mr Parker said the £95 million provision had three components. The value of properties held for sale had been reduced by £31 million, with the damage spread equally between the company's commercial and residential businesses.

A further £53 million of previously capitalised interest has been written off.

At the year-end, net borrowings were £345 million, giving gearing of about 42 per cent. The value of

equity assets in the group was £1.1 billion.

DUP
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Controversy is seldom far below the well-heeled surface of Lloyd's, hub of the world insurance market. It is relatively rare, however, for the dogs to start eating each other in public and, when the words "Lloyd's stinks" appear in a letter from a leading member of the fraternity to the head of regulatory services, it is time for the world to sit up and take notice.

To be fair to James M Sinclair, the managing director of Willis Faber & Dumas (Agencies), who penned the words, he was reflecting the opinions of a group of names he inherited when Willis Faber took over Stewart Wrightson.

Mr Sinclair, the man who has been handed the shovel to clean out one of the Lloyd's stables, added that his names feel that "the way the society is carrying on you cannot have any confidence in Lloyd's - policies, regulatory control or agents".

At the heart of the matter is the repudiation of a reinsurance contract taken out by the syndicate, for which Mr Sinclair now acts. It was underwritten by

Utmost bad taste at Lloyd's of London

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

a Merrett syndicate, and was repudiated years after it was written. Merrett won the dispute at arbitration because of a legal precedent set several years after the contract was written. The basis for repudiation was one of non-disclosure, even though the reinsurance contract had been audited as sound.

In seeking to repudiate the contract, Merrett can hardly be blamed. It had a chance to get out of some expensive losses, and would have had to answer to its own names had it paid out when it could opt out. Little can now be done for the unfortunate names of syndicate '334, faced with nearly £30 million of losses, other than ask Mary Archer, who chairs the hardship fund, to go easy on them when claiming the money back.

The point of Mr Sinclair's letter, however, is deeper than the specific case of one or two syndicates. He is distressed at the failure of

Lloyd's contracts "and other distasteful aspects of the communities' tactics in bouncing liability around the market". He says that Lloyd's will have "a very high price to pay for the cloutish underwriting policy of a few of our greedy underwriters... and it will all happen in the next 24 months".

The basis of the Lloyd's market, and indeed of any insurance contract the world over, is "utmost good faith" and Lloyd's is quick to point out that in 300 years no client has ever been refused payment of a valid claim. That word valid, however, is unacceptable loaded.

Lloyd's has had more than its share of scandals over the past 15 years and even now innocent

names are fighting to limit losses caused by incompetence or worse. Members' agents, who happily took their commissions for years, are claiming they had no duty of care to names. Lloyd's has similarly argued that they owed no such legal duty. It is impossible to disagree with the conclusions set out in Mr Sinclair's letter, that "names will herd out of the market as confidence plummets".

Trafalgar

Sir Nigel Broackes has shown his experience by preparing the stock market well for the heavy write-offs Trafalgar House took on its property book at its

September 30 year-end. His shares, having collapsed from 296p before the interim results in May, recovered 14p to 188p after a strong performance from the construction and engineering business allowed Trafalgar to make £38 million of profits in the second half, even after charging £95 million against residential and commercial property developments.

Some rethinking will also be needed on a share that yields 13 per cent when the final dividend has confidently been maintained, asset value is not far behind the share price, gearing is down and there are no liquidity problems. John Brown and Cementation still have a strong order book. The imponderable for 1990-91, however, is what will happen to the property market. Sir Nigel, who is noted for caution, thinks it can now get no worse, though he is not looking for much early improvement.

If there is an upturn before

next September, the residential side will benefit first and Trafalgar would be able to boost its liquidity further. A recovery in the dollar would help too, especially on the leisure side.

The group has fallen so far from favour that Sir Nigel is now free to change strategy and probably needs to. The appointment of foreign affairs expert David Howell is one pointer. This could be the moment to move the international construction and engineering group more strongly on to the Continent and to capitalise on John Brown's established reputation in Eastern Europe.

What were once diversifications now look like the powerhouse for the future with expertise in most of the right technologies, from gas power stations to offshore oil.

There will be plenty of bad news from others to stop City sceptics becoming too optimistic on Trafalgar's dividend for many months ahead. For once, therefore, time is on the side of Sir Nigel's languid style, which disguises the ability to move fast when conditions change.

SIR Robert Haslam, the chairman of British Coal, will today set forth the challenges ahead for the corporation as it faces its most difficult market conditions since nationalisation of the industry in 1947.

His task is not merely difficult; in certain respects it is impossible. Coal is the main fuel for electricity generation in Britain. The privatisation of power is now irrevocably under way.

Yet electricity has been prepared for privatisation without the emergence of a clear strategy for coal. Many within the coal industry argue that it has been compelled to underwrite the flotation by accepting unprofitable contracts. In a free market, they argue, British coal would command a premium price for the security and convenience of the supplies it offers.

The failure to implement simultaneous structural reform of the coal industry has already caused the energy department and its agents to fall foul of the European competition directorate.

The government wants to privatise British Coal, but is unwilling to do so until the electorate has approved a manifesto promise. But many of the issues simply cannot be shelved until the next election is out of the way.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, is already faced with an unusual opportunity to set the tone at British Coal for the next half decade. None of the six executive directors has a contract that runs beyond March next year. Sir Robert's appointment expires on December 31. Announcement of a successor is overdue. In order to persuade them, or their successors, to accept new appointments, Mr Wakeham is likely to have to spell out the corporation's future.

During his spell as energy secretary, Nigel Lawson detailed the past failure of efforts to predict, and plan for, energy demand. In consequence, he said, market forces should prevail. That is a view held by Mr Wakeham, who this week endorsed moves towards a pan-European energy market.

In the Seventies era of high oil prices, Britain's depen-

Kindling a strategy for coal in the Nineties



Sir Robert Haslam: final challenge before retiring

dence on coal was a blessing. Since then, real energy prices have fallen. The relatively minor impact of the Gulf events on energy markets is proof that more diversity of supplies has largely overcome the scarcity threat.

British Coal has contracted sharply since the collapse of the miners' strike in 1985. The number of collieries is down from 169 to 69. The workforce has fallen from 171,000 to 65,400. Output, including opencast and independent mines, has dropped from 118.4 million tonnes to 108.9

million. Productivity per man-shift has risen from 12.02 tonnes to 20.52 tonnes.

British Coal has been compelled to undertake a three-year contract to supply the electricity generators at £42 per tonne. Last year it sold them 82.2 million tonnes. This year and next, they will take 70 million tonnes and in the 12 months to March 1993, when the contract expires, they will buy 65 million tonnes from British Coal. It is a fast-reducing market. In response to the European Commission's large combus-

tion plant directive, the government has given undertakings to cut emissions of sulphur dioxide from British power stations by 20 per cent by 1993, 40 per cent by 1998 and 60 per cent by 2003.

The generators have responded with a limited programme for flue-gas desulphurisation. Their main strategy is gradually to cut coal-burning, replace as much high-sulphur British coal as possible with imports, and meet rises in power demand with more efficient gas-fired plants. Health authorities and other large coal users affected by the directive are also making plans for gas-firing.

In the coal industry there are forecasts of a cut in deep-mined coal production over the next three years from 75.6 million tonnes to 57 million tonnes. That implies the loss of 17 pits and 15,000 jobs.

Not all British coal is uncompetitive. Despite the problems of depth and fragmented seams, five British Coal pits produce below the international market price of £30 a tonne. Open-cast mines are constrained only by environmental concerns. Imported coal would be costly to transport to many inland power stations, largely served by nearby mines. Twelve-year rolling contracts with individual pits, on the American model, could be justified at prices well above the quayside import price.

There could be a risk that independent generating companies entering the power market in three years or less with gas-fired plant, will complain to the European Commission that coal-burners are being featherbedded with government-subsidised coal.

The Commission is already pressing for Britain's small, but vociferous, independent mine operators to be allowed expansion opportunities and equal access to the power generation market. Like it or not, the privatisation of the coal industry has begun. Finding an appropriate route for British Coal is an imperative not an option.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The weight off Davies's mind

STEVE Davies, a former Pinchin Denny partner, has resigned from County NatWest, where he had been in charge of customer liquidity, and is to leave the City after 27 years. Davies, aged 43, a popular and cuddly figure, has vowed to take at least six months off before deciding what to do next. "After 27 years, I just wanted to spend some time away from the business," he tells me from his home at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. "I've probably been thinking about it for the past three or four years. The City has changed a lot during that time. Getting up at 5 am and not getting home until 9 pm probably had something to do with it. And I want to shed some of the 17 stones I now weigh. I've put on three stone this year." Davies admits, however, that he will probably end up returning to the Square Mile. "It's in my blood and it's still an exciting industry, but I'm going to keep away for a minimum of six months." When Pinchin became part of Morgan Grenfell, Davies ran the firm's market-making operation, leaving to be reunited with another ex-Pinchin colleague, Colin Mills, at County when Morgan Grenfell withdrew from market-making. Doug Baker will share Davies's former responsibilities.

consultant, has left Shandwick Communications after nearly 11 years. After joining the firm in 1980, he soon made his name as an adviser on take-over bids, working on Eagle Star's defence during the bid by BAT Industries. "I have always acted for BTR, including the bids for Thomas Tilling and Dunlop," says Fingleton, aged 42, who began his City career with Simon and Coates in 1967. "The big takeover bids create tremendous excitement. But Shandwick has grown so much and some of the fun has gone out of it now." Fingleton helped set up an institutional sales desk for William Morris, the broker, before turning to financial PR. Having recovered from a heart attack this year, he plans to spend a month in Australia watching cricket, following in the footsteps of Peter Quinlan, former chief executive of James Capel.

Credit losses
THE long-suffering derivatives department at CSFB, the securities trading division of Credit Suisse, has suffered another blow. Andrew Tarling, head of convertible trading, and his number two, Keith Temperton, were dismissed by the firm last week for unknown reasons. The pair, who ran the derivatives trading desk, were told to pack their bags on Thursday evening and have not been heard of since. David Benson, head of UK trading, and one of a

CONTRARY to more exaggerated reports, the number of job losses at Hoare Govett between now and Christmas, both from natural wastage and redundancies, is likely to be about 12. Since some of the departees have not yet been informed of their fate, the company is anxious not to discuss the issue, said to be part of a review of its business and the quality of service it offers. Sources tell me jobs will be lost in sales and research as well as market-making.

NOTICE hung behind the counter of a Camden Town off-licence: "Anyone caught lifting our spirits will be prosecuted."

Naked cheek

SEEN any strange cars outside your dispatch bay recently? If you have, watch out. In his latest book, *Beware the Naked Man Who Offers You His*

rapid rise from rookie salesman to company owner. He recalls how after a week as a trainee at Quality Park Envelope Co, he asked an elder salesmen how best to advance his career. The man drove him to the plant of a competitor and told him to follow the rival's delivery trucks and note their destinations. Five years later, he walked out with 300 of Quality Envelope's best accounts and set up his own company. Harvey has not forgotten his early lessons.

Salesmen who leave his service are bound not to lift accounts for at least a year, leaving enough time, he says, to fight them off.

Nutty Christmas

JAPANESE executives at the Nissan factory in Tyne and Wear, anxious to experience a traditional British Christmas, are not sure what to make of an offer in nearby Yorkshire. The Swallow Chase hotel at York is offering a green Christmas. For £30, guests can sleep for five nights in unheated rooms to conserve oil, eat vegetarian dinners and be treated to a green-clad Santa and plastic Christmas tree. The deal has aroused the suspicion of Friends of the Earth, which is preparing a list of contenders for the "Green icon of the year award". Attempts by hotel staff to ban Brazil nuts, in support of the rainforests, are of little use. "They only grow wild so there is no threat," says FoE's

reforms reflect pressure from government for auditors to tighten up standards and take more responsibility. Members should be selected for the new board in time for it to start next April.

DUP

Jury still out on Siebe acquisition

TEMPOS

ANALYSTS remain bitterly divided over whether Siebe's \$656 million acquisition of Foxboro will make or break the company.

Some consider Siebe's highly geared play with too much exposure to the North American economy, which accounts for 44 per cent of sales. Others believe Siebe found a bargain in Foxboro and that its shares, which have underperformed the market by more than 40 per cent since June, are undervalued.

It is difficult to see much upside in any engineering company these days, let alone one so dependent on American customers to finance the integration of a business that clearly lost its way some years ago.

Foxboro came in too late to profit from Siebe's interim figures. Turnover rose up to £181.3 million to about £160 million would be a surprise, putting the shares, up 7p to 305p, on a prospective multiple of six. For the time being, the odds appear stacked against Siebe.

Group borrowings stand at £689 million, which equates to gearing of 103 per cent, according to the company's calculations. But the figures have benefited from the revaluation of Foxboro's assets, which are on the American model, could be justified at prices well above the quayside import price.

There could be a risk that independent generating companies entering the power market in three years or less with gas-fired plant, will complain to the European Commission that coal-burners are being featherbedded with government-subsidised coal.

The Commission is already pressing for Britain's small, but vociferous, independent mine operators to be allowed expansion opportunities and equal access to the power generation market. Like it or not, the privatisation of the coal industry has begun. Finding an appropriate route for British Coal is an imperative not an option.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' PAY RISES 10.5%

Salaries of company executive directors rose 10.5 per cent in the year to September, up 0.4 per cent below inflation (Ross Tieman writes).

However, the harsher economic climate is reflected in the pay packets of many senior executives, according to this year's Directors' Rewards survey.

The survey, covering 11,641 directors and 83,884 senior executives, showed the average director in Britain is paid £40,000 a year. Non-executive directors topped the pay rise league, with increases averaging 13.3 per cent. Those of managing directors averaged 12.5 per cent.

The results of the study, carried out by the Institute of Directors and Reward Regional Surveys, show much more modest increases than

tax profits to £9.8 million and a cut in the interim dividend from 5p to 3.5p.

The dividend cut brings the yield down to 9 per cent, based on brokers' forecasts of a total payout of 8p for this year. The cut also conserves precious cashflow, important when interest rates are up from £570,000 to £24 million.

Gearing will stick around 70 per cent for some time, as it would be unwise to expect disposals from the £68 million commercial property portfolio for something like two years. Efforts are being made to switch short-term borrowings into longer-term finance to match.

The property misadventure is all the worse because the main building products divisions are coming through the recession not too badly thanks to improved efficiencies from new equipment, site mergers and 2,500 job cuts in the past two years.

The stock market is cautious, at best, on the short-term prospects at Norcros, with brokers looking for no more than £23 million to £25 million this year against £67 million two years ago and £37.3 million in the year to end-March 1990. Come the joyous day of substantial base rate cuts, Norcros shares should be among the main beneficiaries.

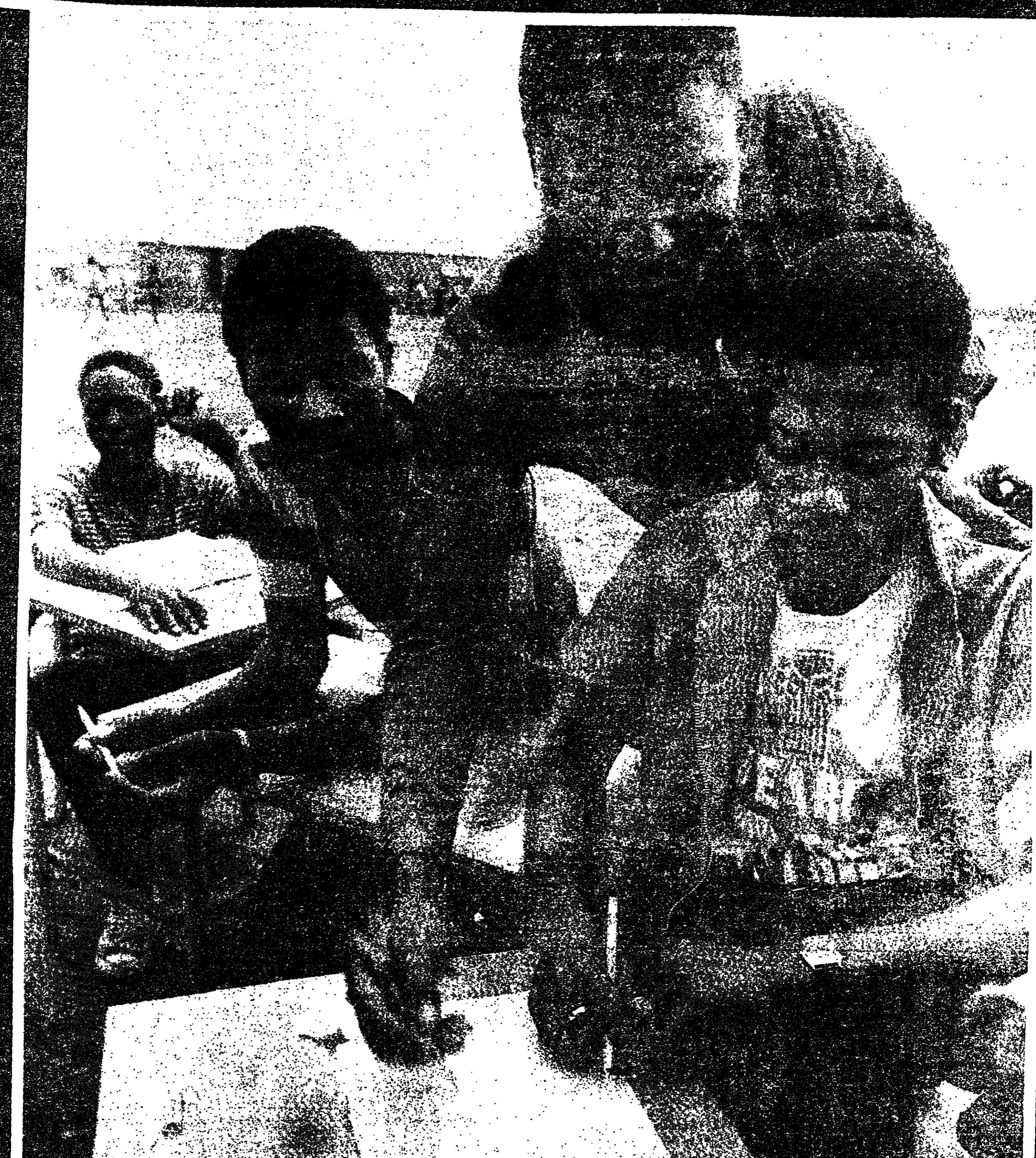
cent, with an average growth in service sector pay of 10 per cent, and a 9.5 per cent rise in manufacturing.

Among directors, the bottom 10 per cent of executive directors had salaries averaging £22,000, while those of the top 10 per cent averaged £74,000. Among companies with annual sales of more than £500 million, the highest salary was £122,250.

Trafalgar House Results for the year to 30th September 1990

	Year to 30 September 1990	Year to 30 September 1989
Operating Profit		
Property and investment	77.4	170.3
Construction and engineering	68.4	57.3
Shipping and hotels	60.5	57.8
	206.3	285.4
Profits before tax	155.7	270.4
Ordinary dividend	18.4p	17.6p
Earnings per share	22.0p	42.8p

- Dividend up 5 per cent to 18.4p.
- Turnover up 7 per cent to record £3.5 billion.
- Developments for sale written down by £95 million.
- Construction and engineering record operating profit of £68 million.
- Shipping and hotels record operating profit of £61 million.
- Profit before taxation £155.7 million after write-down.
- Borrowings of £345 million; gearing reduced to 42 per cent.
- Average cost of borrowing 10



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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small markdowns

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 19. Dealings end December 7. Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on midday prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 26)

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000

Claims required for +35 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Gross	Yield
11	Jarvis	BUILDINGS, FOUN.	100	1.12
12	Bunzl (aa)	FOODS	100	1.12
13	Tesco	CHEMICALS	100	1.12
14	Castrol Instruments	Electronics	100	1.12
15	FMI (aa)	INDUSTRIES E-A	100	1.12
16	Mitsubishi	PROJECTS	100	1.12
17	Amstrad (Herts)	BANKS, INSUR.	100	1.12
18	Spirits Int'l (aa)	INDUSTRIES E-Z	100	1.12
19	Ricardo	INDUSTRIES L-R	100	1.12
20	Eurotherm	INDUSTRIES M-Q	100	1.12
21	Joseph (Leeds)	Electronics	100	1.12
22	Warren Howard	INDUSTRIES R-Z	100	1.12
23	Bridgeman	DRAPERY, STORES	100	1.12
24	Woodside	FOODS	100	1.12
25	Fired Earth (Ldn)	FOODS	100	1.12
26	Resolute	INDUSTRIES P-H	100	1.12
27	HM Gp	INDUSTRIES I-O	100	1.12
28	Brokers Mill	FOODS	100	1.12
29	RHM (aa)	FOODS	100	1.12
30	AB Food (aa)	FOODS	100	1.12
31	Exwest	BUILDINGS	100	1.12
32	Hunting	INDUSTRIES A-V	100	1.12
33	BTP	CHEMICALS P-L	100	1.12
34	Westing	BUILDINGS, FOUN.	100	1.12
35	Glynned (aa)	INDUSTRIES E-P	100	1.12
36	Gr Portland	PROJECTS	100	1.12
37	Reuter (aa)	INDUSTRIES L-R	100	1.12
38	Ayrshire Metal	INDUSTRIES A-H	100	1.12
39	TV-A-M	LEISURE	100	1.12
40	Ponals	INDUSTRIES L-T	100	1.12
41	Caledonia	TRANSPORT	100	1.12
42	Unigate (aa)	FOODS	100	1.12
43	Alpinatura (aa)	INDUSTRIES L-T	100	1.12
44	Rechem	INDUSTRIES L-R	100	1.12
45	Burnell, Cundie (aa)	Oil/Gas	100	1.12
46	Savilex	INDUSTRIES S-Z	100	1.12
47	Reindeer	INDUSTRIES L-R	100	1.12
48	Foden (Ldn)	TEXTILES	100	1.12
49	Closets	PROJECTS	100	1.12
50	Brax Bros	FOODS	100	1.12
51	Wurbur-SG	BANKS, DISCOUNT	100	1.12
52	Hamble	BANKS, DISCOUNT	100	1.12
53	Vorkshire TV	LEISURE	100	1.12
54	Budweiser	INDUSTRIES A-D	100	1.12
55	© Times Newspapers Ltd	DAILIES, TELE	100	1.12

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend				
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRIDAY

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Shona Johnstone, of Over, Cambridgeshire.

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1990 High Stock Price Change % Gross Yield %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Stock	20%	10%	5%	-5%	-10%	-20%	-30%	-40%	-50%	-60%	-70%	-80%	-90%	-100%	-110%	-120%	-130%	-140%	-150%	-160%	-170%	-180%	-190%	-200%	-210%	-220%	-230%	-240%	-250%	-260%	-270%	-280%	-290%	-300%	-310%	-320%	-330%	-340%	-350%	-360%	-370%	-380%	-390%	-400%	-410%	-420%	-430%	-440%	-450%	-460%	-470%	-480%	-490%	-500%	-510%	-520%	-530%	-540%	-550%	-560%	-570%	-580%	-590%	-600%	-610%	-620%	-630%	-640%	-650%	-660%	-670%	-680%	-690%	-700%	-710%	-720%	-730%	-740%	-750%	-760%	-770%	-780%	-790%	-800%	-810%	-820%	-830%	-840%	-850%	-860%	-870%	-880%	-890%	-900%	-910%	-920%	-930%	-940%	-950%	-960%	-970%	-980%	-990%	-1000%	-1010%	-1020%	-1030%	-1040%	-1050%	-1060%	-1070%	-1080%	-1090%	-1100%	-1110%	-1120%	-1130%	-1140%	-1150%	-1160%	-1170%	-1180%	-1190%	-1200%	-1210%	-1220%	-1230%	-1240%	-1250%	-1260%	-1270%	-1280%	-1290%	-1300%	-1310%	-1320%	-1330%	-1340%	-1350%	-1360%	-1370%	-1380%	-1390%	-1400%	-1410%	-1420%	-1430%	-1440%	-1450%	-1460%	-1470%	-1480%	-1490%	-1500%	-1510%	-1520%	-1530%	-1540%	-1550%	-1560%	-1570%	-1580%	-1590%	-1600%	-1610%	-1620%	-1630%	-1640%	-1650%	-1660%	-1670%	-1680%	-1690%	-1700%	-1710%	-1720%	-1730%	-1740%	-1750%	-1760%	-1770%	-1780%	-1790%	-1800%	-1810%	-1820%	-1830%	-1840%	-1850%	-1860%	-1870%	-1880%	-1890%	-1900%	-1910%	-1920%	-1930%	-1940%	-1950%	-1960%	-1970%	-1980%	-1990%	-2000%	-2010%	-2020%	-2030%	-2040%	-2050%	-2060%	-2070%	-2080%	-2090%	-2100%	-2110%	-2120%	-2130%	-2140%	-2150%	-2160%	-2170%	-2180%	-2190%	-2200%	-2210%	-2220%	-2230%	-2240%	-2250%	-2260%	-2270%	-2280%	-2290%	-2300%	-2310%	-2320%	-2330%	-2340%	-2350%	-2360%	-2370%	-2380%	-2390%	-2400%	-2410%	-2420%	-2430%	-2440%	-2450%	-2460%	-2470%	-2480%	-2490%	-2500%	-2510%	-2520%	-2530%	-2540%	-2550%	-2560%	-2570%	-2580%	-2590%	-2600%	-2610%	-2620%	-2630%	-2640%	-2650%	-2660%	-2670%	-2680%	-2690%	-2700%	-2710%	-2720%	-2730%	-2740%	-2750%	-2760%	-2770%	-2780%	-2790%	-2800%	-2810%	-2820%	-2830%	-2840%	-2850%	-2860%	-2870%	-2880%	-2890%	-2900%	-2910%	-2920%	-2930%	-2940%	-2950%	-2960%	-2970%	-2980%	-2990%	-3000%	-3010%	-3020%	-3030%	-3040%	-3050%	-3060%	-3070%	-3080%	-3090%	-3100%	-3110%	-3120%	-3130%	-3140%	-3150%	-3160%	-3170%	-3180%	-3190%	-3200%	-3210%	-3220%	-3230%	-3240%	-3250%	-3260%	-3270%	-3280%	-3290%	-3300%	-3310%	-3320%	-3330%	-3340%	-3350%	-3360%	-3370%	-3380%	-3390%	-3400%	-3410%	-3420%	-3430%	-3440%	-3450%	-3460%	-3470%	-3480%	-3490%	-3500%	-3510%	-3520%	-3530%	-3540%	-3550%	-3560%	-3570%	-3580%	-3590%	-3600%	-3610%	-3620%	-3630%	-3640%	-3650%	-3660%	-3670%	-3680%	-3690%	-3700%	-3710%	-3720%	-3730%	-3740%	-3750%	-3760%	-3770%	-3780%	-3790%	-3800%	-3810%	-3820%	-3830%	-3840%	-3850%	-3860%	-3870%	-3880%	-3890%	-3900%	-3910%	-3920%	-3930%	-3940%	-3950%	-3960%	-3970%	-3980%	-3990%	-4000%	-4010%	-4020%	-4030%	-4040%	-4050%	-4060%	-4070%	-4080%	-4090%	-4100%	-4110%	-4120%	-4130%	-4140%	-4150%	-4160%	-4170%	-4180%	-4190%	-4200%	-4210%	-4220%	-4230%	-4240%	-4250%	-4260%	-4270%	-4280%	-4290%	-4300%	-4310%	-4320%	-4330%	-4340%	-4350%	-4360%	-4370%	-4380%	-4390%	-4400%	-4410%	-4420%	-4430%	-4440%	-4450%	-4460%	-

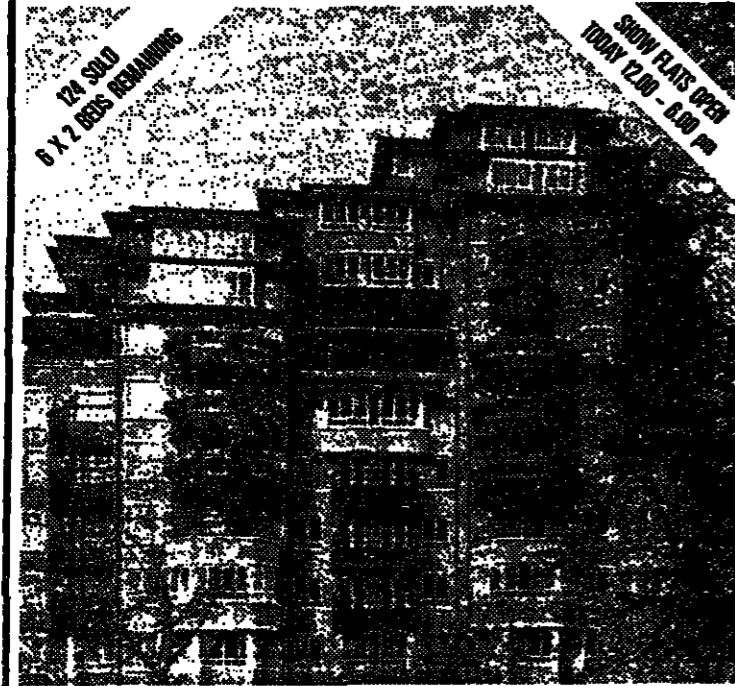
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Excellent opportunity to work for the top management of a major international Co. Use your initiative & organisational skills to support the Managing Director in his role.

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£12,500 + EXCELL BENS

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MERROW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Regional regeneration

While the commercial property market in London suffers from the effects of the economic recession, there are more optimistic noises from Manchester and Bristol. There is also a warning. The market may be flat at the moment, but a lack of action or commitment now could lead to future shortages of space.

This is the message from the Bristol-based property consultant J.P. Sturge, which predicts in its annual review, *Property 1991*, that the market in the south and west could see shortages of some types of property in 1992, unless developers are able to return to the market now.

David Marsh, the senior partner, points out that despite today's lack of investment in new development there is still demand from potential occupiers, leading to reduced stock and shortages, particularly in the city centre offices and industrial market.

This is the case in Bristol, where the general economic outlook led many organisations to delay proposed moves to the city, despite almost record numbers of enquiries to the company's local office. If the usual take-up of around 600,000 sq ft a year were restored during 1991, there could be a shortage of self-contained buildings.

"Developers must plan now to meet the demands of two years' time," Mr Marsh says. "Although funding is difficult

Despite a property slump in the southeast, there is life in the regions and a threat of a future shortage of new construction.

Christopher

Warman reports

at present, 1991 will be the time to pick up bargains, with land values lower and refurbishment opportunities at bargain-basement levels."

He believes the shortages will start to be recognised towards the middle of next year, and that economic and political factors, including the timing of the next general election, will influence the speed and scale of the return of confidence in the market.

In Greater Manchester, research conducted by Chesterton, the international property consultant, predicts a substantial increase in office space, with about three million sq ft under construction, but says this is equivalent to only two years' supply at the letting rate of the past 12 months.

In the city centre, 760,000 sq ft of offices are under construction, but in the traditional core only 25,000 sq ft will become available next year, leaving a continuing demand for high specification offices with large floors.

Chesterton's *Manchester Business Space Review 1990-91* reports that office demand has remained buoyant and lettings in the past year have exceeded 500,000 sq ft. The non-banking financial and insurance sectors dominated this market, accounting for 30.5 per cent and 24.1 per cent of take-up respectively.

Office availability has risen slightly from 5 per cent a year ago to 6.3 per cent, but only 136,000 sq ft of the total 884,000 sq ft is in the most desirable areas.

Britannic Assurance's new



The Manchester scheme for Britannic Assurance

20,000 sq ft office development in Fountain Street, which was topped out last month, is the only building at present under construction in Manchester's prime financial centre. The building, replacing a property built in 1939 by the company, has attracted considerable interest because of the shortage of new accommodation in this area. The agent, Lambert Smith Hampton, is seeking a rent of about £20 per sq ft.

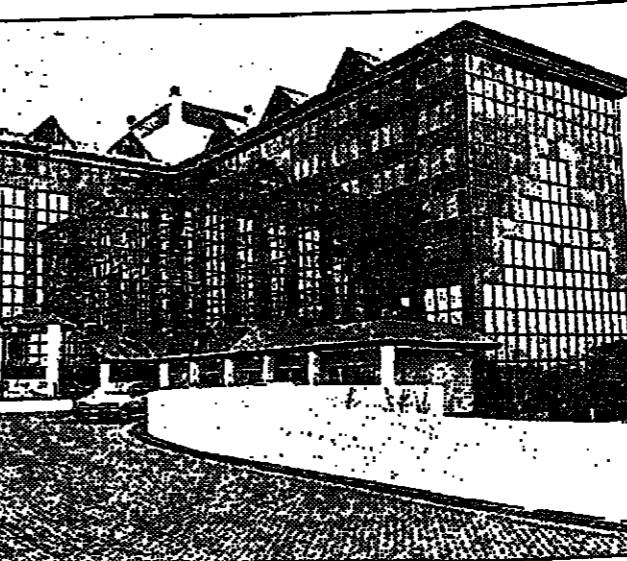
Chesterton says rental growth for prime offices in the city centre is likely to be boosted in 1991 by a continuation of the pre-letting activity witnessed in the past two years. Rents have risen to £15.50 per sq ft, but pre-lets on buildings under construction have achieved £18.50 and, Chesterton predicts, will reach £20 by the end of this year.

Mike Denham, the partner in charge of Chesterton's Manchester office, says the report confirms the continued lack of supply of high-quality offices in the heart of the city and the market's inability to satisfy demand.

He says: "The high level of take-up for new schemes in the core area will force unsatisfied demand towards Salford Quays, now perceived by many as a viable alternative to the city-centre fringe locations.

What the report also shows is that even in difficult times there is still development potential, for not all property markets are oversupplied.

The new service will allow



The Copthorne Hotel, at junction 6 of the M4 near London's Heathrow airport, has been completed on target despite a delayed start. Zakhem Construction (UK), the builder, began work in July last year after a three-week legal hold-up, and handed over the £25 million, 220-room building to the Copthorne Hotels company, a subsidiary of Aer Lingus, last Thursday. The hotel was opened on Saturday ahead of schedule and ready for the Christmas trade. Dino Nicola, the Zakhem managing director, says: "The achievement was particularly good because of all the disciplines involved. The installing of furniture, electricals, kitchen equipment and other items all had to be co-ordinated."

IN THE MARKET

Tech city for new Germany

A British-led consortium has won approval for plans for a central European technology city on a 3,000-acre site near Magdeburg, Germany, in the Berlin-Hanover corridor. The project aims to attract new technology industries and multinationals. The consortium was formed by Christopher Turner, the chief executive of Britain's Technology Consulting International, and is supported by the Irish telecommunications, aviation and electricity industries.

Knowle Hill Park is a 50-acre estate overlooking the green belt at Cobham, Surrey, where Octagon Developments is constructing a new headquarters. The grounds have a pitch-and-putt golf course, and water gardens and lakes. The offices are designed in two separate squares and will provide 41,000 sq ft of space and a helicopter pad for flying visits. Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks and Fuller Pease, the joint agents, are seeking more than £18 million or an annual rental of £1.3 million.

Taylor Woodrow Property Company is jointly developing with Mitsui Construction Company, the Japanese contractor, a £5.5 million office scheme in Gray's Inn Road, central London. Work has begun on a 28,000 sq ft air-conditioned building next to the Independent Television News centre and is expected to be ready for letting in November 1991.

Exposed — the registry secrets

AFTER more than 100 years of secrecy, the Land Registry has opened its doors this week to permit members of the public to make general ownership enquiries. To coincide with the change, Property Intelligence and ICC Legal Services have announced the launch of a joint venture search service providing ownership and planning information on any site or property in England and Wales.

The new service will allow

subscribing to Property Intelligence's Focus databases to request Land Registry searches through their own Focus link, bypassing the need for correspondence with, or a personal visit to, the relevant district land registry or local authority.

Daniel Wilson, of Property Intelligence, says that this can save an enormous amount of time. The relevant records for Hounslow borough, for example, are held in Swansea, and those for Greenwich are at Telford, Shropshire.

Under the joint venture, the companies will prepare two reports within 48 hours.

The first, an ownership report, includes site and property owner details, title status, leasehold details and mortgages and charges register.

The second, a planning report, offers a general planning history of the site or property, previous and current planning applications, the borough development plan, prevailing council policies and copies of planning consents. Each costs £55 plus VAT.

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perty, the "City Neues Berlin", class and shape. Its location is at the top address in Berlin: on the Friedrichstrasse in the city centre between the Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz, Leipziger Strasse, the Platz der Akademie and Unter den Linden. It's as if the Champs-Elysées, Regent Street, Via

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دعا من الأصل

Wrapped up for winter

The campaign to promote energy efficiency in the home, an aspiration for cut costs and for a government that wants to reduce energy consumption, has received a boost with the announcement that Milton Keynes Development Corporation is to adopt the new national home energy rating in housing schemes.

For years, the corporation has been in the forefront of energy-saving schemes and has used its own rating system to indicate the measure of energy efficiency, and last year, with other sponsors, commissioned the National Energy Foundation to develop the system into a single standard that could be used nationally.

Since 1988 all new schemes in the city, consisting of about 5,000 homes, have had to comply with standards considerably better than those laid down by government building regulations.

The national rating, launched in June, has a scale running from 0 to 10. New houses built to government regulations would rate 6 on the scale, compared with the 7.5 minimum for all new houses in Milton Keynes and 8.5 for special schemes such as houses built in the Milton Keynes energy park, known as Energy World.

When the national rating scheme was launched, Mary Archer, the foundation chairman, said that in the UK about 16 million homes would have a rating below 4, with more than three million homes below 2, and hardly any properties scoring the maximum of 10.

"If we could raise all homes in

the UK by one point on the rating scale, we would save £1.3 billion a year and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 4 per cent a year, a real contribution to fighting the greenhouse effect and producing significant financial savings for householders," she says.

The need for energy conservation was emphasised recently by Chris Patten, then environment secretary, who said that the government was setting an example by deciding to cut its energy bill by 15 per cent. The government will also be promoting combined heat and power schemes, monitoring energy efficiency standards, encouraging energy labelling of houses and of household appliances, and promoting the use of energy-efficient lighting.

Energy use in buildings is

responsible for about half of total UK emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important of the greenhouse gases, and 60 per cent of this is associated with dwellings, according to a report by the Building Research Establishment. The report, published earlier this year, suggests that those emissions could be reduced by 25 per cent using energy efficiency measures that are already considered to be cost-effective, and by a further 10 per cent using other proven technologies.

Milton Keynes has been the test bed for energy efficiency for developers and housebuilders, highlighted by an international exhibition of 50 houses in 1986. That exhibition showed that energy-efficient houses did not have to be built underground or

have vast solar panels, though that helps. Most looked "ordinary", and were made energy-efficient by simple means that added little to the building costs.

The Milton Keynes experience shows that fuel bills can be cut by about a third.

Insulation, double glazing and orientation all play an important part in cutting consumption, and all are incorporated in the Wimpey Homes house at Energy World. The four-bedroom house with double garage adapted from one of the company's popular designs looks traditional, and has a timber frame, designed to balance the extra initial capital cost with its cost in use.

Lifestyle 2000, built by Dow Construction Products, uses solar glass for the double glazing and a solar wall in the conservatory as an additional source of warm air. Other features, such as low-energy light fittings, help to reduce the annual fuel bill by up to 60 per cent, the company says.

Timber-framed houses attracted some bad publicity in the Eighties, but, properly built, they are ideal for energy efficiency. The Timber and Brick Information Council says that their superior insulation can save up to 25 per cent on energy costs.

A Mori poll carried out for the Brick Council this year disclosed that 58 per cent of people likely to buy a property had energy efficiency as a high priority. The day of the house rated 10 on the national scale may be far off, but if the government presses on with the campaign, energy-efficient houses will become the norm rather than the rarity.



Greenhouse effect: the Lifestyle 2000 home uses solar glass



Kelston Knoll is a small country estate with two-bedroom lodge, a coach house that has a gardener's flat, views down the Avon Valley and a 14-acre setting. The estate is only three miles from Bath and eight miles from Bristol, providing a country seat close to town. The Grade II listed house was built in 1835 for H.O. Wills of the tobacco family, and has eight bedrooms, a panelled

drawing room, a dining room, a ballroom, a sitting room and a conservatory. The reconstructed Georgian interior retains period features such as Adam fireplaces and mahogany doors. The grounds contain two walled gardens and nine acres of grazing land. Cluttons, the agent at Bath, is asking about £750,000 for the property, which has been in the same ownership for 40 years.

IN THE MARKET

house by a conservatory, the agent says.

■ Puffins, at Little Barrington

near Burford, Oxfordshire, was

built by Thomas Strong,

Christopher Wren's master mason

in 1643. Strong was held in

such esteem by Wren that he

asked him to lay the foundation

stone of St Paul's Cathedral. Some

of the building material for the

cathedral was said to come from

Strong's own quarry at

Taynton, near Little Barrington.

Puffins, complete with fine

stone mouldings, is a Grade II

listed four-bedroom house,

which was renovated in 1959 by

William Lloyd, the architect responsible for the rebuilding of St Clement Danes, the Wren church. The price, through Jackson-Stops & Partners' Burford office, is £150,000.

■ John Schlesinger, the film

producer, is selling his London

home in Victoria Road,

Kensington. The house, dating

from 1851-45, has been

extended over the years, and has

two bedroom suites and two

former bedrooms, two reception

rooms and a study. The

property has a self-contained flat,

garage and off-street parking,

and includes three roof terraces

and a rock garden. John D.

Wood & Co is asking for offers of

about £1.75 million.

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CADOGAN SQUARE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW1

Impressive first floor, fully renovated and tastefully decorated drawing room with fireplace, two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, fitted kitchen, £1500 per week.

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Large studio flat, fully renovated and tastefully decorated, £1000 per week.

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Two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, £1200 per week.

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BOXING

Tyson out in cold as Foreman finds happy days are back

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, ATLANTIC CITY

IT WAS just 11 months ago that the pronoun "he" in boxing referred only to one man — Mike Tyson. "He'll knock him out in one round". "He's unbeatable". "He's too fat". "He's drinking too much". "He's in trouble". He this, he that, he the other.

Today if you could join a conversation late you could be forgiven for thinking *he* refers to Ivander Holyfield, the undisputed heavyweight champion, or George Foreman, or even Nigel Benn.

Even though after his defeat by Douglas in Tokyo last February, Tyson started on the "road back" with the one-round knockout of Henry Tillman, the "poor black kid from the ghetto heading in the right direction" appears to have lost his way again. Down to his last \$15 million, Tyson neither knows where his fortune of \$100 million has gone nor where he is going.

With Foreman, aged 43, eating into Tyson's media list by publicising his bout against Holyfield — "the greatest event of all time", "the Real Deal against the Big Meal", or the "big bump put in by Donald Trump" — Tyson has been left out in the cold.

While Foreman has been packing them in at press conferences playing the fat man to the tune of "happy days are here again", Tyson has been struggling for attention. He is hoping that a spectacular showing against Alex Stewart, a Londoner now boxing out of New York, here

on Saturday will change all that. To really cash in, Tyson is even talking of a return with James "Buster" Douglas, known in these parts as the "Blo".

Tyson can blame Don King, his promoter and adviser, for his relegation to third-string heavyweight. The boxer's profile appears to have become subordinate to King's, as the promoter, finding himself outside the heavyweight championship scene for the first time since Muhammad Ali met Leon Spinks in 1978, has sought to promote himself back into the most lucrative sports business.

King's publicity material lists 14 fights, from the first "million dollar viewer fight spectacular, 'Rumble in the Jungle'" in 1974 to the 26th million-dollar heavyweight series to find the undisputed champion in 1986.

Millions, millions, millions.

Little wonder then that King does not seem to have recovered from the shock of losing grip of the heavyweight championship after Douglas knocked out Tyson in Tokyo last February. King might have won back control if Douglas had beaten Holyfield in October, for King had a contract to promote Douglas's dismal performance left King relying on the World Boxing Council (WBC) forcing Holyfield to defend against Tyson or stripping the champion of the WBC part of the undisputed title.

Even though influential

members of the WBC, like the British Boxing Board of Control, have told the world body not to force the issue, King hopes that the WBC will prevail and that Holyfield will lose his title. Tyson and Razor Ruddock could then meet for the vacant WBC position.

Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, has said his man would defend against Tyson in June though he does not have to until October. But King is refusing to wait for the multi-million dollar pay-off. He does not mind if Tyson fights for only a fraction of the money for a fraction of the title. Whether Tyson wins or loses, King will be back in the big time again, for he has Ruddock under contract.

"The WBC still has integrity," King said last week. "If it doesn't capitulate like the other organisations did, Tyson will fight Ruddock for the title."

Holyfield's backers, fearing the loss of the "undisputed champion" label, have launched a legal offensive.

They have obtained from the New Jersey Superior Court an order blocking the WBC's move to strip Holyfield.

Duva will seek a permanent injunction against the WBC tomorrow week. Should the WBC persist in its demands, the issue will go to court where it's stand will come under heavy scrutiny. Whatever such a court case does to the reputation of the WBC and King, it will do Tyson no good at all.

NETBALL

Girls too physical for comfort

By LOUISE TAYLOR

PLAYED strictly by the rules, netball is not a contact sport. But those regulations were flouted at Wanstead last Saturday when players from Essex, Metropolitan and Birmingham became overly physical during a PES English Counties League encounter.

Cheryl Dawson and Evelyn Haywood, the two umpires, had to ask Coleene Thomson, the Birmingham captain, and Sue Collins, her Essex counterpart, to calm their players down at the end of the third quarter.

With the game so close that it finished 48-45 in Birmingham's favour, such tension was not entirely surprising. As Thomson said: "Matches between us and Essex Met are always hard. This one was particularly physical but I do not think the crowd helped. They were naturally very biased and noisy."

Joan Bryan, the England goal-shooter, was influential in Birmingham's success, while Fiona Mursit impressed on her first match back for Essex Met, following a year-long sabbatical in Australia and New Zealand, where her netball benefited from local clubs.

Still unbeaten, Surrey continued in a winning vein, beating Kent 56-41, to remain on top of the table. Middlesex, who triumphed 48-24 over newly-promoted South Yorkshire, are second.

The final trials for the England under-21 squad at under-21 and under-18 level were at Crystal Palace last weekend. The principal omission was the omission of Lisa Taylor, the Doncaster goal-shooter who was recently included on the under-21 tour of Barbados. By retaining her place, Joanne Hall, of Greater Manchester, must have relieved the publishers who recently featured her in a book on how to make the grade in international netball.

ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD: J. Hall (Greater Manchester); D. Savurey (Bedfordshire); A. Wood (Nottinghamshire); C. Thompson (Birmingham); S. Brown (Buckinghamshire); A. Woods (Suffolk); S. Angiley (Devon); N. Gabriel (Beds); N. Angiley (Surrey); J. Jazzena (Midlands); E. Miller (South Gloucestershire); C. Cleveland; S. Olden (Dorset).

ENGLAND UNDER-18 SQUAD: J. Lee (East Lancashire); C. Thompson (Surrey); L. Bremby (Essex); Men: S. Green (Derbyshire); C. Sawyer (Berkshire); T. Thompson (Gloucestershire); G. Green (Greater Manchester); H. Greenwood (south Yorkshire); S. Nimmer (Lancashire); G. Marston (south Buckinghamshire); S. Page (Mid-Hampshire).

BASKETBALL

New challenge for struggling Clark

By NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR Martin Clark, who faces Germany at Aston Villa tonight in England's final fixture of the semi-final round of the European championship, things can only get better.

He has never known a week like it. So far as reliable a player, capable of averaging 22 points for both club and country, the past three matches have been dismal.

The 6ft 6in Kingston forward followed his eight points against Spain in Murcia last Wednesday with a meagre six against Yugoslavia at the Albert Hall on Saturday. The improvement on Sunday, when Clark contributed ten points to Kingston's NatWest Trophy triumph against Manchester, was only marginal. More often his shots have failed completely to find the target; if not, they have bounced agonisingly off the rim.

Clark has been his usual decisive self in other areas. "I think I've done a decent job in defence and with rebounds," he said. "If I concentrate on those aspects, the other thing should eventually take care of itself."

England hope so. They need Clark at his best in his nineteenth international if they are to avenge last year's 101-87 defeat in West Germany and finish their Group C programme with respect.

"The feeling in the camp is that we can win this game," Clark said. "Last year we blew it."

YACHTING

Way heads contenders for yachtsman of year

By BARRY PICKTHALL

PENNY Way, one of Britain's top hopes for an Olympic medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, heads a strong list of contenders for this year's yachtsman of the year award.

Way has dominated the Olympic windsurfing circuit this year, winning the world championship in Brazil. She won a £5,000 Times/Minet Supreme award this year before being named the helmswoman of the year in the annual Silk Cup nautical awards last month.

Two other nominations short-listed yesterday for the Brent Walker-sponsored yachtsman of the year award are Ian Suttorowth, the winner of three national championships this year, and Neil Holmes, the

SNOOKER

Corr signed to Hearn's Matchroom

By STEVE ACTESON

BARRY Hearn, whose world champions, Steve Davis and Allison Fisher, have lost their respective titles, has signed a replacement, in the form of the new men's title-holder, Karen Corr.

The signing of Corr takes Hearn's Matchroom stable to eight, six men and two women.

Hearn also announced yesterday a sponsor for the world matchplay tournament which begins in Brentwood tomorrow. Codite will put up the £250,000 prize-money, £100,000 of which will go to the winner.

The matchplay event will feature 12 players, including Stephen Hendry, the world champion and outright favourite, and Jimmy White, the world No. 4 and defending champion.

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Corr

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Little flow but a surfeit of interruptions

By HENRY KELLY

THE main difference between American football and British association football is, apart from the shape of the ball, the fact that if a chap does something wonderful in American football none of his team-mates can get near enough to him to give him a hug, never mind a kiss. The best we can hope for is a smack on his helmet, one of those all-embracing pieces of protective head-gear which look like big pencil sharpeners and can be worn only by men whose neck muscles must clearly resemble the growing trunks of small trees.

Over the weekend we had two fine examples of both species of football on our television screens. And all this when we had perhaps the best snooker match for years, some fine rugby, excellent horse-racing and even the odd boxing match which was easy on the eye.

I sympathise with those entrusted with the coverage for television of American football. Even by United States standards, the breaks for advertisements are daft. Given that the game itself is not a flowing game and that its skill depends on calculation and steady progress rather than rapid advance, there are more stops in it than traffic lights in Oxford Street. Commercials, however, not only interrupt after individual plays, they seem to be hanging around just waiting to pounce the minute the ball is dead.

Having had that grouse, may I say that the Candlestick Park encounter between the San Francisco 49ers and the New York Giants in the early hours of yesterday morning was well worth watching — for the first half. Someone once remarked of Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* that it was a drama in which nothing happened twice. Nothing happened in the second half after the 49ers had taken a 7-3 lead following an expected Joe Montana move that gave him the only touchdown of the game.

There were some beautiful shots of the bay area of San Francisco and the crowd — whenever the cameras cut to them — seemed to be having a good time. This was the big boys playing for real and the difference between it and some of the college football we have seen on Channel 4 in the past was, as you would expect, one of pace and greater accuracy. The channel is to be congratulated for bringing us this football. I have given it a time to settle into me and I enjoyed it.

Sunday's match between Liverpool and Arsenal

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

showed us the differences did you notice how, compared to Candlestick Park, Highbury, one of our better grounds, looked small and poky? While Kenny Dalglish and George Graham walked the touchline in anoraks, looking like two ice lollies, their American equivalents are wired for sound and march the side of the field with a bevy of supporting trainers and players ready to come on and do their bidding at a moment's notice.

Let us be clear, though, about one thing: the actual physical coverage of a fast moving, flowing game — which Sunday's was — knocks spots off the equivalent from the States in terms of viewer appeal: the advertising interruptions apart, there are just too many on-screen statistics in the American football, far too much talk from the commentators and not enough moments in which a viewer can calmly watch the play proceed. This is only partly due to the nature of the game; the rest is over-excitable television presentation.

It has truly been said of television that its terminology belongs to the underworld: "kill"; "cut"; "dead"; "black"; "strike"; "pull"; meanwhile the terminology of American football belongs to a world where the expectation of serious injury seems uppermost in participants' minds: "dump"; "sack"; "bomb". It is actually possible to listen to the American-based commentators, realise they are using English words but not have a blessed clue what the poor guys are saying.

I noticed one aspect about American football which, it seems to me could be introduced to rugby union at home: the side that scores a touchdown kicks off to restart the game. It has always struck me as daft in rugby that the side scored against is put into the position where it has a better-than-even-money chance of at once returning the ball to the opposition.

I suggest we take a leaf from the Yankee book and, perhaps beginning with seven-a-side rugby, make it that if you have scored, you have to restart the play. After all, you have held up play by scoring and you have got your reward.



That's the ball game: Taylor's second-quarter touchdown seals it for the 49ers

Hype punctured by reality

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE San Francisco 49ers v New York Giants game on Monday thrashed with the hype of a National Football League championship game. It also trudged along with the tedium, on a low-scoring scale. More than a thousand reporters were on hand to cover "Super Bowl XXIV", which San Francisco won 7-3 at home in a contest that turned out to be deadlier than King Tut's family tree.

The game was a punt-fest, 16 in all, and the clubs managed a paltry total of 26 first downs. The mathematical Phil Simms of San Francisco completed barely four of every ten passes.

Each club entered the game with a league-leading record of ten wins and one defeat. Never

mind that each team had antimicromatically tasted defeat only last week; media representatives stirred up excitement in front-page headlines that read

goal attempt. The 49ers gained only 88 yards on the ground but did manage to burn up the last four minutes.

Montana found the range when he had to, leading a splendid two-minute drive to provide the winning margin by half-time. Montana, who was 12 of 29 for 152 yards and was not sacked, hit Roger Craig with a 21-yard pass. Two plays later he pinned down Taylor to John Taylor, who outclassed Mark Colston.

New York had taken a 3-0 lead on a 20-yard field goal by Matt Bahr. The 49ers never sustained their precision as Charles Haley led the San Francisco defenders with five tackles, one-and-a-half sacks and two forced fumbles.

In the fourth quarter New York marched from their 35 to a first down on the San Francisco nine. Four Simms passes fell incomplete, the last deflected by the cornerback, Darryl Pollard.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sponsor's record donation

By KEITH MACKLIN

ANDY Gregory, Great Britain's elusive invincibility and often surprising semi-final half-throughout his retirement from international Rugby League "to spend more time with my family and my business in Wigan". However, to sighs of relief which echoed throughout Wigan, he says he will continue to play club rugby at Central Park.

Gregory made his announcement with the startling suddenness of those electrifying scrum breaks which even the Australians found hard to contain. "I have been thinking about it for some time, and I have decided to call it a day now to give Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, time to blood and groom a scrum half for the 1992 tour down-under."

His decision has something to do with the fact that a nagging groin injury prevented him from producing his best form from his retirement last year. His rule of thumb was to break down the Australian defences with the quicksilver bursts for which he has become renowned was a

source of bitter disappointment to him, and he is again having treatment at a London sports clinic.

However, the injury is not the major reason. Speaking at his non-ferrous metals workshop, where overalls have taken over from the Wigan and Great Britain strips, Gregory said: "I have spent so much time playing rugby, training, going away to international camps, touring and generally eating, drinking and sleeping Rugby League that I have had no time for my wife and three-year-old daughter."

"I am in partnership with my father-in-law in the business, but people think he runs it on his own. I am never home."

Gregory first came to prominence with Widnes in the early 1980s, and won the first of his 25 international caps, one of them as substitute, in 1981. He joined Warrington, won number honour with them, and set up a record record transfer fee of £120,000 when he left Warrington in 1986-87.

"I am in partnership with my father-in-law in the business, but people think he runs it on his own. I am never home."

The move was to lead to his greatest successes, as the great

Wigan side under Graham Lowe and latterly under John Monie mopped up the game's major trophies season after season. At club and international level his performances on television made him the rival of Ellery Hanley as Rugby League's most familiar and famous performer well outside the northern boundaries of the code. Latterly, however, he has been so dogged by injury that he has been unable to produce consistently his most brilliant form.

Like many little half-backs, Gregory has spirit and a temperament twice his size, and is a fearless tackler of big forwards. His peppery temperament has often brought him into skirmishes with authority on the pitch as well as off it. Once or twice during his successful career at Wigan he has crossed swords with the coach.

Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman and Great Britain manager, died yesterday. "Andy will be missed by Great Britain and I am delighted he will continue to play for Wigan. He is undoubtedly one of the greatest ever half-backs."

Horne could well emerge this season as the most influential individual of the league. Last season Cummings' almost unbroken string of wins at second string won the league for Colets and she was quick this week to counter moves by the SRA to use its mandatory merit listing as justification for promoting her above Michelle Martin, of Australia, in the Colets playing order.

Cummings cited narrow splits and as cause of withdrawal from the international circuit on which she already ranks below Martin, then went out, happily re-established as Colets' second string to destroy Rebecca Best, the Irish No. 1, 9-10, 10-9, 9-0 in 29 minutes.

That saved a point for Colets after Martin and Cassandra Jacks fell away from match point positions to lose in the other rounds.

The continuing impact on the competition is likely to come from Horner, however. At Thorpe Bay this week, Cummings and Samantha Langley 9-6, 9-0, 9-1 in less than 15 minutes to settle the match against IMS Coastlands.

Had travelling between Yorkshire and Hampshire seemed less daunting, Horner might have been leading the new Lee-on-S

Old Applejack can underline recovery of Johnson's string

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

AFTER Area Code had won at Harham last Thursday it was a mightily relieved Howard Johnson who returned to his home near Crook in County Durham. For that result, along with a good run by stable companion Slave I one earlier in the afternoon, was a clear indication that his string had recovered from a virus that has been wreaking havoc in his stable during the previous six weeks.

At Caterick Bridge today I will be looking to Old Applejack to provide further evidence that things are looking up by winning the Charles Vickery Memorial Cup over a course and distance which has already provided him with two of his 10 victories under Rules.

Last time out Old Applejack, who has the Grand National as his long-term objective, was like most of his stable companions, a disappointment when he managed only fifth in the race won by Dalkey Sound at Kelso.

Before that, though, Old Applejack was a creditable third behind Celtic Shot and Kildimo in the Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby, that after winning on the same Yorkshire track in October. Today his chance of defying top weight is best judged on those two performances.



Richards: good prospects with Last 'O' The Bunch

Unlike Old Applejack, the Demon Barber, the representative of Gordon Richards in-form stable, is far from certain on past form to see out today's trip.

In my view Last 'O' The Bunch is a more likely winner for the successful Greystoke Novices' Handicap Chase in concerned, I think it advisable to give Nonnat Russa a chance to stone after failing as early as the second fence at Hereford a week ago. Before that he was a creditable second at Taunton to Mandrake Shuffie, who was also the eventual winner of that same race at Hereford.

Finally, Emma O'Gorman can show yet again what a promising young rider she is by landing a double for her father Bill on Haky (12-40) and Scottish Castle (2-10) on the all-weather surface at Ludlow.

Today's nap, though, is Blackberg to win the Streetlam Novices' Hurdle following that narrow defeat at the

hands of Flight Hill over the same course and distance nine days ago.

At Huntingdon, I expect to see the EBF Novices' Hurdle qualifier won by Fortunes Wood, who created a most favourable impression on his racecourse debut when he beat The Artful Rascal by seven lengths at Leicester.

It will also be surprising if Pragada fails to win the Crowland Novices' Chase having run that decent jumper Aston Express so close at Haydock a fortnight ago.

As Prideaux Boy looks a shadow of his former self, Major Match should be able to record his third victory at Ludlow by winning the Tote Bookmakers Handicap Chase before he retires into winter quarters.

As far as the Tote Credit Novices' Handicap Chase is concerned, I think it advisable to give Nonnat Russa a chance to stone after failing as early as the second fence at Hereford a week ago. Before that he was a creditable second at Taunton to Mandrake Shuffie, who was also the eventual winner of that same race at Hereford.

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Southernair's win boosts Morgan

TOM Morgan's spirited fight to overcome the weight problem which threatens his career was rewarded with a victory on course specialist Southernair at Fontwell Park yesterday.

Morgan, the former stable jockey to Ross-on-Wye trainer John Edwards, is now riding as a freelance and seizing every opportunity his weight permits in both Britain and Ireland.

With Steve Smith Eccles and Richard Dunwoody unavailable to take the ride on seven times track winner Southernair in the Wally Coomes Handicap Hurdle, Morgan was the third choice. But the jockey, whose talents are greatly respected by his weighing room colleagues, gave the Grand National prospect a fine performance in the race of Breakfast Car in 14th position.

Making the 12 stone in this instance was no trouble, "I can do only 1st 2lb at the moment, the weight is a big problem. It is a case of keeping up regular visits to the sauna, and although it's a struggle I'll win in the end and get back to my normal weight,"

His opportunity arose, Morgan would snap up the offer to ride Southernair at Almear. Owner Stanley Powell believes his gelding is just the right type for the Aintree fences.

Old Virginia maintained his improvement with a 14th length win over Al Asof in the Coomes Handicap Hurdle, to complete a 37-1 double for Dorset trainer Reg Akhurst, whose newcomer Hardman did some noteworthy best in the Wally Coomes' Novices' Hurdle.

Your Weir's former point-to-pointer Philip Hobbs won the ease of his 12 lengths win over The Artful Rascal, the 5-4 favourite for the Greenwich Novices' Hurdle. The gelding was always cantering and pulled right away over the final two flights.

Wetherby objective for impressive Greenheart

GREENHEART will contest the competitive Castleford Chase at Wetherby on December 27 after a narrow victory over sole rival Melior in the Silver Blaze Handicap Chase at Newcastle yesterday.

Peter Niven, standing in for the injured Chris Grant, made every yard of the running and as the race warmed up so did Greenheart's fencing. Frank Scotti, the owner of Greenheart, said: "Waterloo Boy and Young Spirit are in the Castleford and I am hopeful that mine will be a possible winner."

Chris Grant, who had several fancied rides at the meeting, decided to stand down following

a fall from Fighting Finish in the last race at Kelso on Monday. "I am really bruised and very sore but hopefully I'll be back in a couple of weeks," said Grant.

Nigel Tinder and Graham McCourt clinched a short-priced double with Rodeo Star and Tranquill Waters. Rodeo Star was particularly impressive, and his comfortable 3½-length victory over Stagshaw Belle in the Round Of The Baskerville Novices' Hurdle stamped him as a possible future star in the making.

Al Hashem was beaten from 6-1 to 7-2 with William Hill yesterday for the A F Badge Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday.

HUNTINGDON

Selections
By Mandarin

12-45 Superetta.
1-15 Infinity Rules.
1-45 Fortunes Wood.

By Michael Seely
1-45 FORTUNES WOOD (nap). 2-15 Pragada.

Going: good (chase course); good to firm (hurdles)

12-45 MONTAGU CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£1,576; 2m 100yd) (6 runners)

1 6 SAO PAULO (C) (Simpson) C Allen 4-11-4 D Bridgeman 4-9 50
2 GABARDON (P) (T) Dunn 5-10-7 I Lawrence 5-10-10
3 1 SUPERETTA (F) (D Russell) J Jenkins 3-10-7 M Ahern 5-10-10
4 004 FIRE GOLD 9 (W) Winstrop W Penn 3-10-2 S Curran 5-10-10
5 0 ILLOGICAL 16 (D) (Hawkins) J Wharton 3-10-2 A S Smith 5-10-10
6 WEEKENDER 2465 (Miss K George) Miss K George 3-10-2 D Skinner 5-10-10

SETTING: 6-5 Superetta, 15-8 Sa Paulo, 6-1 Boldstar, 10-1 Fire Gold, 15-1 Gabardon, 20-1 Weekender.

1989 LA CASTANA 3-10-2 C Hobbs 7-11 C Bowler 4-11-4

FORM FOCUS SAO PAULO never won in 12 starts in 1989 but in a seller over course and distance he was 10th at Newmarket in a bumper at 18lb to Sir Nutter in a seller at Nottingham (2m, good). If setting: 6-5 Superetta, 15-8 Sa Paulo, 6-1 Boldstar, 10-1 Fire Gold, 15-1 Gabardon, 20-1 Weekender.

1-15 LONG SUTTON HANDICAP CHASE (£2,405; 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1 5212-4 INFINITY RULES 18 (D/G) (C Brotheron) S Mellor 9-11-10 M Perrett 9-11-10 S J Davies 9-11-10
2 4522-5 COULENT 16 (D/F) (M Winstrop) S Mellor 9-11-10 S J Davies 9-11-10
3 4243-6 WINDY CRACKER 16 (B/D,F,G,B) (M Winstrop) S Mellor 9-11-10 W Innes 9-11-10
4 12405-5 TRIBUTE TO YOUTH 9 (D/G) (P Martin Green) D Nicholson 9-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

Long handicap: Tributes To Youth 9-12.

BETTING: 7-4 Tributes To Youth, 5-2 Infinity Rules, 4-1 Boldstar, 5-1 W Innes, 5-1 Windy Cracker, 8-1 Sa Paulo.

1888 BULLY BOY 6-10-10 P Leach 5-11-10 B Woods 3 ran

FORM FOCUS INFINITY RULES weakened approaching 4 out when a distant last 4 to Bad Star at Ayre (2m, good). Previously best Perico 5-1 at Leicester (2m, good), previously best 10th at Wetherby (2m, good) and set to improve when 13th at Wetherby (2m, good) in April.

SAO PAULO driven to beat Lady Primrose 8 in a seller over course and distance at 14lb to Sir Nutter in a bumper at 18lb to Sir Nutter in a seller at Nottingham (2m, good).

COULENT 16 (D/F) (M Winstrop) S Mellor 9-11-10 M Perrett 9-11-10 S J Davies 9-11-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

Setting: 6-5 Superetta, 15-8 Sa Paulo, 6-1 Boldstar, 10-1 Fire Gold, 15-1 Gabardon, 20-1 Weekender.

1-15 BPF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 12-187; 2m 100yd) (8 runners)

1 FORTINES WOOD 16 (L/S) Mrs C Morrison T Thomson Jones 4-11-5 S Smith Eccles 9-9
2 COMIC LINE 358 (S) Mrs E Rees 5-10-10 J Osborne 9-11-10
3 4252-5 COULENT 16 (D/F) (M Winstrop) S Mellor 9-11-10 S J Davies 9-11-10
4 NEVER POKER 32 (Ben Williams) Development Ltd D Gressell 5-11-10 M Perrett 9-11-10

5 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

6 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

7 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

8 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

9 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

10 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

11 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

12 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

13 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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18 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

19 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

20 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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25 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

26 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

27 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

28 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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31 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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33 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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35 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

36 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

37 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

38 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

39 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

40 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

41 0005-5 PERSONAL SWORD 19 (P Newbold) D Nicholson 5-10-10 R Dunwoody 9-10-10

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45 0

Gower is injured as Lamb's team takes the field with serious intent but establishes only its mediocrity

Dismal England at rock bottom

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
CANBERRA

GIVEN a setting as colourful as Arundel and an occasion touched by the rich and famous, England contrived to turn in another desultory day's performance here yesterday. Losing to the Prime Minister's XI was no disgrace. But the way in which it happened confirmed the darkest suspicions about the state of this side.

Before the match began, Micky Stewart, the team manager, was at pains to point out that the result was not as important as the level of performance. "To lose a game like this in the right circumstances is not the end of the world," he said. By last night, Stewart was beyond a pretence that the circumstances had been right or that the performance had had anything to redeem it.

In brief, England lost by 31 runs to a team containing only one active Test player, the captain, Allan Border. On a picnic and deckchair day at the charming Manuka Oval, Bob Hawke returned from Parliament House, and a sombre speech on the Gulf, to find his mood lightened by the eclipse of a team which has forgotten how to win and mislaid its sense of method and purpose.

If one takes this game at face value, and England's management left no one in any doubt that it was to be approached seriously, then the immediate future is depressing for them. At times they looked bereft of direction and at others of brainpower. They were also, incidentally, short on luck, Gower joining the injury list with a cracked and bruised right thumb.

All this might change, or be changed, but what cannot be altered is the raw material and, more than anything, England looked a team decorated with wall-to-wall mediocrity.

The players capable of rising above such ordinariness, like Lamb, Smith and Gower, seem to have been dragged down to the same level. Australians grow bored easily when their sport is one-sided and if there is not a profound reform within the touring side, and soon, this tour could die through lack of interest.

In the 1950s, when Sir Robert Menzies held the honour, the Prime Minister's matches were played in a more festive spirit. Distinguished batsmen could expect leniency from bowlers and umpires.

Imran turns to older hands to foil West Indies

From JOHN WOODCOCK
IN LAHORE

THERE is a very different feel in the air on the eve of the third and deciding Test match between Pakistan and West Indies, which starts here tomorrow, than there was before the series began in Karachi three weeks ago. The conviction which pervaded the Pakistan camp then has been replaced by doubt. With the West Indians, it is the other way round.

The transformation occurred in Faisalabad, where in half an hour West Indies turned impending defeat into imminent victory. In the ten days since then they have had the benefit of a game in Sargodha to occupy them. All the Pakistanis have done is to sweat and fast.

Perhaps the greatest compliment paid to the West Indians these days is the lengths to which their hosts will go to take the sting out of their fast



Down down under: Lamb, the England captain, sinks to his knees as failure again descends on the touring party in Canberra yesterday

and the Menzies team always included retired stars. Bradman was 54 when he played in 1963. Hassett and O'Reilly both played when in their late forties. There is a case for saying the day was better served that way, and that yesterday's crowd would prefer to have seen, perhaps, the Chappell brothers and Rod Marsh in action than some promising but fairly anonymous talent.

Mr Hawke, however, collaborates with the Australian selectors, who use this game for their own ends and have their coach, Bob Simpson, on hand to assess how the emerging talents cope. For them, it is a significant day, though perhaps not as significant as it was for Allan Lamb and his players.

No one is under greater strain than Lamb, and no one is betraying it more visibly. Gone is the buccaneering banter which always identified him as such a good, if exhausting, lieutenant. Carrying the

can for a losing team is no laughing matter and Lamb has neither the leadership experience nor, it would seem, the expertise to carry it off.

His first arguable decision yesterday was to put the opposition in to bat. True, there had been rain on Monday and the outfield was wet and slow, but the pitch was never likely to be better than sluggish all day and the urgent need was to give the batsmen a chance to restore morale with a big score.

Selection was also contentious. In leaving out Hugh Morris, there was at least a consistency of thought with last week's assertion that he is here only as cover for Gooch, but the opportunities to give him match practice in case he is needed at Christmas are few. Releasing Lewis, the team's one-all-rounder, to play in a charity match in Melbourne, also seemed misguided.

Fraser and Bicknell rapidly reduced the Hawke team to 48 for three, before Bevan and Lehmann put together a stand of 56. It was during this that Tufnell came on to provide England's most encouraging feature of the day.

Bowling almost entirely at left-handers, which he would not do by choice, Tufnell gave England's bowling a challenging variety which has been absent too long. His three wickets were hard-earned and, with Hemmings still thought only an even-money bet to be available for the weekend's two World Series Cup games, Tufnell's chances of inclusion have improved.

In the closing overs, England's disciplining in the field degenerated once more and 34 came from the last three. This had been one of the issues to anger the management against New Zealand last Saturday. "We must never do this again," had been the theme of the sermon. Already, it has been ignored. The bowling was unimpressive, the fielding occasionally slapdash and the

choice but to play out time, in obvious pain and in company with the slogging Malcolm.

Nevertheless, they had 48 overs to pursue a target of 227 and it should not have been taxing once John Morris, striking the ball beautifully, and Larkins had launched the innings with 57 in 12 overs.

Smith then volunteered for the first of two particularly unintelligent run-outs, Stewart being the second culprit, and with Larkins, reprieved by an astonishing drop at cover to 12, out immediately after tea, England were suddenly the outsiders.

Gower had returned from hospital after x-rays on the thumb, injured when dropping a ferocious cut from Border, but he did not bat until No. 8 and by then the game was all but lost. McDermott's three wickets in two overs left Gower no

chance but to play out time, in obvious pain and in company with the slogging Malcolm.

P. Reiffel did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-43, 3-48, 4-

104, 5-121, 6-148, 7-159, 8-225, 9-

120, 10-223, 11-220, 12-220, 13-

211-4; Bicknell 10-42-2; Small 10-58-5; Tufnell 10-40-3.

Extras (6 wkts, 1 nb 2) 226

Total (8 wkts, 48 overs) 226

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Extras (6 wkts, 1 nb 2) 226

Total (8 wkts, 48 overs) 226

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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-78, 3-185, 4-

84, 5-124, 6-155, 7-164, 8-167, 9-168,

10-171, 11-171, 12-171, 13-171;

McDermott 10-42-2; Tucker 9-12;

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84, 5-124, 6-155, 7-164, 8-167, 9-168,

10-171, 11-171, 12-171, 13-171;

McDermott 10-42-2; Tucker 9-12;

Bevan 10-42-2; Small 10-58-5; Tufnell 10-40-3.

Extras (6 wkts, 1 nb 2) 226

Total (8 wkts, 48 overs) 226

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- BOXING 38
- RACING 39
- CRICKET 40

SPORT

Robson back in the England fold

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
BRYAN Robson, who has not appeared for Manchester United since damaging his Achilles tendon during the World Cup finals last summer, is to make his comeback as the captain of the England B football team in Algeria on Tuesday.

He will return in a role that promises to extend his career for club and country. Graham Taylor, in announcing the squad yesterday, revealed that Robson is certain to be chosen "at the back". Whether he acts as a conventional sweeper, as one of the three central defenders, or as the guard patrolling in front of the back

four has yet to be determined.

When Taylor first took over from Bobby Robson as the national manager, he told Bryan Robson that he no longer expected him to cover the area between the respective penalty areas. "I don't think he can do that two or three times a week for Manchester United and do it for England as well."

After collecting 87 caps in midfield, Robson is to take a step backwards and, in Taylor's opinion, the move could usher the England captain towards one of his principal ambitions. A century of appearances, which might have been out of reach, is a more realistic target for a

player who will celebrate his 34th birthday in January.

An Achilles tendon injury inevitably endangers anyone's career. Neil Webb, another victim, who is included in spite of being dropped recently by United, can confirm how debilitating the effects can be for any player, young or old.

Robson's brief contribution at the end of his own testimonial game a fortnight ago indicated that his rehabilitation could be complete. In recognising the part that Robson has played for England over the last decade, Taylor is, in turn, ready to help him on his road to recovery.

"Through his perfor-

mances, he has shown how much desire he has to play for his country. His 87th shirt meant as much to him as his first. I know he would dearly love to get 100 caps and I owe it to him to give him this chance. England owes it to him."

He is deeply passionate about coming back. I spoke to Alex Ferguson and he agreed that it was more worthwhile for Bryan to be playing in Algeria rather than for United's reserves. Besides, it will give me an opportunity to spend a few days with him."

Taylor indicated that, if all goes well at the Olympic Stadium in Algiers next week, Robson will be in contention

for a place in the international against Cameroon in February. The following month, England resume their competitive programme when they meet the Republic of Ireland in the European Championship qualifying tie at Wembley.

Indeed, the England manager stressed that next week's match represents a genuine opening for others to stake their claim for promotion. This is not just a reward for a good League career but a chance to look at players who could compete against those in the senior side."

Although Tony Daley, Ian Wright and Matthew Le Tissier are exciting forwards, he will probably examine

more closely the merits of the defensive members of the side. The individual display of Robson should not necessarily be regarded as the only one which could shape Taylor's plans next year.

ENGLAND B SQUAD: N. Martin (Crystal Palace), M. Stewart (Tottenham Hotspur), B. Lawrie (Newcastle United), M. Stansfeld (Leeds United), D. Barnes (Liverpool), G. Abbott (Liverpool), G. Thompson (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Thompson (Manchester United), D. Bailey (Leeds United), M. Thomas (Tottenham Hotspur), D. Howells (Tottenham Hotspur), D. Smith (Sheffield Wednesday), M. Cowan (Manchester United), I. Wright (Crystal Palace), A. Smith (Arsenal), N. Cheung (Tottenham Hotspur), N. Spalt (Aston Villa), D. Gordon (Norwich City), G. Cowans (Aston Villa).

Taylor's TV decision, page 41

IAN STEWART

Aga Khan pulls his horses out of British racing

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Aga Khan stunned the world of racing yesterday by announcing that he will cease to have horses trained or raced in Britain until the Jockey Club improves its controversial drug testing procedures. The unprecedented move by one of the world's great equine owner-breeders came less than two weeks after Alyisa, the winner of the 1989 Oaks, was disqualified from first place — the first classic victory to be overturned because of drugs.

Ninety horses in training with Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani at Newmarket will be moved to other trainers employed by the Aga in France, Ireland and the United States.

Alyisa, owned by the Aga, was disqualified after the Jockey Club decided that the source of 3-hydroxycamphor found in a post-race urine sample was camphor, a prohibited substance, and not borneol, found in feedstuffs and bedding, as shown by an international team of scientific experts hired by the Aga.

The Aga, who has successfully challenged positive tests for illegal medication in his horses on two previous occasions, said he would not race horses in Britain until "such time as effective measures have been instituted to correct the flawed equine drug testing procedures and the administration of the rules sanctioning the use of prohibited substances in racing in this country."

"No horses will be trained here and no horses will race here because I don't think that it is possible to race under scientific conditions which are unsound," he said.

"This decision is extremely uncomfortable. It is not

THE AGA KHAN

Prince Karim Aga Khan IV

Born: December 13, 1936.

Racing colours: Green, red stripes.

Trainers: Michael Stoute, Luca Cumani, Alain de Royer-Dupre, Jean-Luc Damble and John Oox.

Leading owner: 1981.

Best horses bred: Shergar, Khyas and Lashkar.

Big-race victories

BRITAIN: Derby: Shergar (81), Shahzadani (86) and Khyas (85). 2,000 Guineas: Doyoun (85). King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes: Shergar (81).

FRANCE: Derby: Top Ville (79), Dargan (84), Muktar (85), Metron (87), 2,000 Guineas: Zeddaan (85), Kalamoun (73), Blushing Groom (77), Nishapur (78). 1,000 Guineas: Masakira (84). Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Alyda (82).

IRELAND: Derby: Shergar (81), Shahzadani (86) and Khyas (85).

UNITED STATES: Breeders' Cup Turf Stake: Lashkar (84).

hydroxycamphor could come from other substances including Borneol.

Professor Donald Davies, the head of biochemical pharmacology at the University of London, said that it was "totally unacceptable scientifically" to use a test for camphor which relied on a single metabolite. The test was flawed.

About one in 100 HFL camphor tests ends in a positive result, which was "astronomically" high compared to normal drug test results of one in 1,000 or one in 2,000, Dr Gary Henderson, an assistant professor at the University of California, said.

Dr Martha Harkey, a research pharmacologist also from the University of California, said that they had proved 3-hydroxycamphor was found in the urine of horses which had not come into contact with any camphor containing compounds. It was also a by-product of Borneol, a naturally occurring compound, found in hay, carrots and woodshavings.

But the most scientifically damaging assault on the HFL and the Jockey Club came from Professor Robert Masse, the associate director of the Canadian Centre for Doping Control, who said that Borneol could be turned into camphor by an enzyme in a horse's liver.

No one contests that 3-hydroxycamphor was found in Alyisa's urine sample. However the HFL believes that since it is a metabolite (chemical by-product) of camphor, its presence proves that Alyisa ran with camphor in her system. In a series of tests, more sophisticated than those used by the HFL, the Aga's scientists proved that

irreversible but I need to be satisfied and I hope the industry as a whole will wish to be satisfied that these sort of cases... can no longer occur in British racing.

The team of eight scientists hired by the Aga, including the foremost authorities on drug testing techniques, joined him in London yesterday and were unanimous in condemning the test used by the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory (HFL) at Newmarket, which resulted in Alyisa being disqualified.

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the Aga said it was unacceptable that the Jockey Club's procedures were so designed that they are guilty until proven innocent."

Vayrann, the winner of the Champion Stakes in 1981, was found to have received an anabolic steroid according to HFL tests. Following extensive professional tests, the Aga's advisers proved the chemical by-product found in the horse's urine sample also came from the natural sex hormone, Testosterone, which is always present in entire male horses. The Jockey Club accepted the evidence and altered the rules to make sure such a mistake could not happen again.

The first scientific hearing in October effectively capped the issue. At that point there was no return."

Even if the Jockey Club hearing had ruled in favour of the Aga and his classic-winning filly, he would still have pulled out of British racing in protest at what he considers to be the unsatisfactory scientific management of drug testing horses in Britain. He consulted close friends and colleagues before finally taking a decision which will have repercussions from racing's corridors of power to the stables, studs and tracks.

"I can't name names," he said. "One trainer knew and the other one was informed indirectly. I discussed the decision with my own people because I don't want to underestimate the consequences that this has on my own activities. The thoroughbred industry in

western Europe is centrally affected by Britain; its quality of racing, its commercial dimensions, the professionals who work within it and its media, which in western Europe terms is outstanding."

"The reason was I had sufficient evidence of the approach to science from the Vayrann case, from the research we had done on other camphor cases called positive by the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory and what was being done in the Alyisa case for me to come to the conclusion that the whole approach was simply not tolerable."

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"The

Time for poll tax reforms running out, councils say

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT
LOCAL authority treasurers said yesterday that the government was running out of time in its attempts to reform the poll tax.

As Michael Heseltine told the Commons that he would leave no stone unturned in his appraisal of the community charge, town hall finance officers said that he must act quickly to avoid administrative chaos.

Planning for next year's local authority budgets is already well advanced. Chris Patten, Mr Heseltine's predecessor, announced provisional figures for grants, spending targets and poll tax bills on October 31.

The announcement also included proposals for new capping powers, which would give Mr Heseltine the right to step in if individual councils increased their spending by more than 9 per cent, or 12.5 per cent above their standard spending assessment.

Both elements of the package have now been put on ice with the disclosure that formal parliamentary orders implementing them will not be tabled before Christmas, to give time for the poll tax review to be completed. As a result, much of the budgetary planning at town and county halls will have to come to a halt until well into the new year.

After serious problems last year, following the late announcement of capping criteria and delays in issuing

Ministers' science advisers ignored

By NIGEL HAWKER, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government ignored the recommendations of its own advisers when it set the science budget for 1991-2.

The figures, announced in the chancellor's autumn statement last month, provided for an increase of £22 million in research council funding, rather than the £94.6 million the Advisory Board for the Research Councils is understood to have recommended.

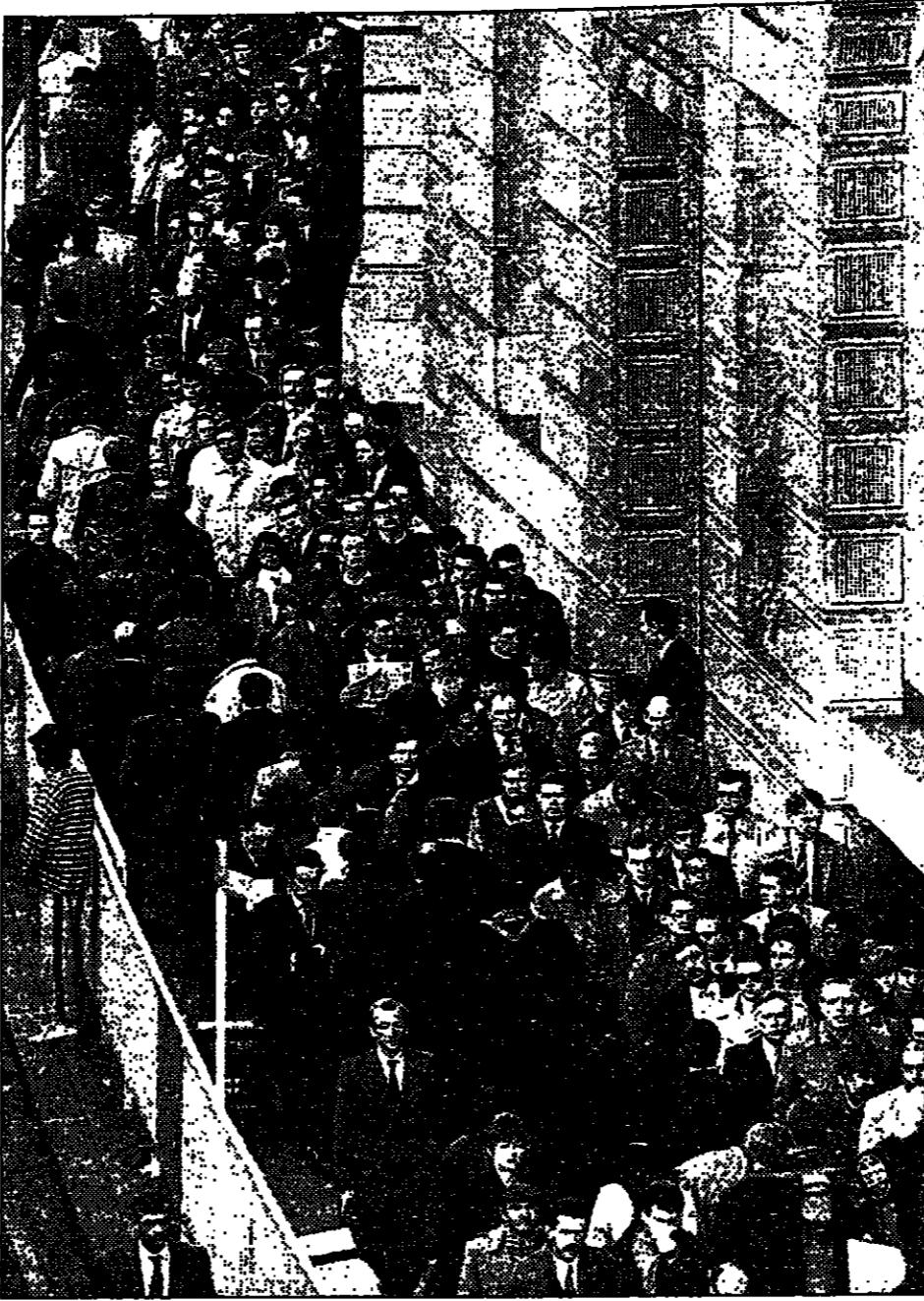
The increase, which the Department of Education and Science claimed was in line with inflation, was in fact less than 3 per cent. If the government had followed the board's advice, the increase would have been 10.5 per cent, roughly in line with the inflation rate.

The education department and the board will not confirm the figures, on the ground that the advice given was confidential. In previous years the advice has been made public, but the potential for ministerial embarrassment was so great that from this year the figures are not being published.

The Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, representing scientists and engineers working in the research councils, will today meet Sir Mark Richmond, chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, to urge him to take the case for more money direct to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. The institution wants a £7 million cash injection for the current financial year, and an extra £40 million for 1991-2 out of the government's contingency reserve.

Leading article, page 13
Heseltine proposals, page 1

Science, pages 16, 17



Late surge: the great electricity sell-off sparked a last-minute rush of applicants, with thousands forming a 200-yard queue outside a National Westminster branch in the City before applications closed at 10am yesterday. Business news, page 25

Debate in Dail on Ulster aim

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in more than fifty years, the Irish parliament is debating what articles in the republic's constitution claiming jurisdiction over Northern Ireland could be amended.

Although the private member's bill is being opposed by Charles Haughey's coalition government, the measure will give deputies an opportunity to discuss whether the two articles are a political aspiration or legal imperative to the unification of Ireland.

It seeks to amend the two articles by including a "consent clause", saying there would be no change in the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its people; and that unity would be achieved in "peace, harmony and by consent". Even if passed, any proposed constitutional amendment would have to be put to a national referendum.

Introducing the bill, Proinsias De Rossa, leader of the Workers' party, said the bill had been given a new urgency by a Supreme Court judgment last March which described the territorial claim in the two articles as a "constitutional imperative".

Unionists claim the two articles are territorial and offensive but nationalists in Ulster say they are essential for their political aspirations.

Leading article, page 13

Woman in the news

Incisive touch on policy

By DAVID LIPSEY

SARAH Hogg, yesterday appointed to head John Major's No 10 policy unit, is the first woman to hold the post. No one who knows her will suggest that she is in any sense a token woman. With a less ideological disposition than her immediate predecessor, Brian Griffiths, she symbolises the transition to a tough-minded pragmatism which is emerging as the feature of the Major premiership.

Mrs Hogg is forthright on individual issues. "She has an absolute conviction that she knows everything she knows," says one former colleague. She was first a convert to, and then a passionate advocate of British entry into the European monetary system. Her views, however, defy categorisation, beyond saying that she is firmly a Tory, tends to the liberal, and never merely toes the party line.

By background, she is representative of the old-style Tory grandees rather than the "classless society". Her father, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, was chief secretary to the Treasury under Macmillan. She is married to Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the foreign office, and Mr Hogg is the son of Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor.

Few, however, would question that she qualifies for the job on merit. In a succession of jobs in journalism, she exhibited an incisive intellect, bringing her training as an economist to bear on a wide range of issues.

Leading article, page 13

Box office boom 'will fall away'

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE booming box offices of the past ten years will fall victim to the recession, London's theatre management has been warned.

Duncan Weldon, a producer, has predicted that the number of shows in the West End of London will have to be cut by a third if the financial health of the London stage is to be maintained. "Our recession will be slow and it will last five years," he said.

Only 10 per cent of West End shows are making a profit, he added, and the rising cost of productions, now averaging £250,000 compared to £10,000 two decades ago, is also taking its toll. Mr Weldon is concerned about the lack of popular new material and the increasing costs of a night out for audiences already hit by high interest rates and inflation.

The Policy Studies Institute's latest quarterly arts report, *Cultural Trends*, to be published next week, is expected to show that, even if productions are not being cancelled, the theatrical boom of the past ten years is over. Andrew Feist, one of its authors, said the London stage was in danger of losing a lot of its younger audience.

Cultural Trends will point to figures from the Society of West End Theatre and the City University box office survey, which show that the

Leading article, page 13

Open hostility erupts over union election

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE contest for the leadership of Britain's fifth biggest union erupted into open hostility yesterday amid allegations of extremism and intimidation.

Roger Lyons, one of the candidates, said that the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union is under threat from a "desperate caucus" of hard-liners.

Mrs Switzer said: "I expect this election be conducted on the issues rather than on name calling. Our members are at the sharp end of this government's economic policies and they face a serious threat of job losses while Lyons is apparently putting his own ambition before our members' needs for a united union."

Mr Lyons, announcing his candidacy yesterday, said: "I must alert the membership to a serious threat from a desperate caucus of hard-liners, whose political ideology has been discredited and rejected across Eastern Europe. I will oppose strenuously any attempt by extremist elements to hijack the union."

He said that it was wrong that a third of the 650,000-strong union's national executive committee consisted of hard-left activists and that they controlled half of its regional councils. The union's democratic processes were being undermined by "secret

covens and caucuses" of hard-liners who intimidated national officers.

"I appeal to the members to safeguard the future of the MSF and prevent a vacuum being filled by unrepresentative elements who would divide and undermine the union," he added.

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She told the High Court yesterday that she had remained faithful even though she felt only pity for him.

She was being cross-examined by George Carman QC, for the *News of the World*, in her libel action over an article that claimed she had a "sizzling affair" with a man who looked like her husband.

The trial continues today.

MP risks jail

The Labour MP Terry Fields was served with a liability order by magistrates yesterday after refusing to pay his poll tax. However, the MP for Liverpool Broadgreen said he would still not pay even if it meant going to jail. Mr Fields, aged 53, was summoned by Sefton council to face Bodie magistrates' court for non-payment of his £373 community charge.

Ulster remand

Tommy "Tucker" Lytle, aged 52, leader of the loyalist Ulster Defence Association in West Belfast, was remanded in custody yesterday. He is accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice, threatening to kill witnesses and possessing documents useful to terrorists.

250 jobs lost

The Bear Brand factory in Liverpool, which makes stockings and tights, is to close with the loss of 250 jobs, it was announced yesterday. The company said the Woolton site was no longer economic but it hoped some staff would be redeployed.

Editor: The Times Express
Norfolk: 32c; Belgium: B Frs 55;
Canada: \$2.75; Canada Post
France: 1.00; Germany: F 10.00;
Finland: Mkr 1.00; Italy: L 3.000;
Netherlands: Dfl 1.00; Portugal:
Rep. 45c; Italy: L 3.000; Luxembourg:
45c; Morocco Dir 1.00; Norway Kr.
14.00; Pakistan: Rs 15; Portugal Esc.
14.00; Switzerland: S Frs 3.00;
Turkey: Lira 1.20; USA: \$2.50.

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Harrods
SWITZERLAND

Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Telephone 071-730 1234 Fax: 081-501 1234



Built on a bed of peat, it is the roads on Islay that do the travelling. As the highly absorbent peat takes in water, it expands and forces the roads to rise and fall. It is this same peat that is cut, dried and then burnt in kilns to malt the barley when making Laphroaig. Giving Laphroaig a distinctive rich and smoky taste that has remained unchanged for well over 150 years. As for the roads? Well, they have their ups and downs. SINGLE ISLAY MALT. AS UNIQUE AS THE ISLAND ITSELF.

لذة العسل